

Hull

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M.A.A.F.  
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Memorandum: - Subject.  
What are the Germans saying.  
This study is declassified

Restricted

H. B. Hull -  
Colonel.  
Intelligence.  
M.A.A.F.

Reason for declassification: -  
End of War in Europe

Classification Cancelled

By Authority of  
The Commanding General  
Army Air Forces

30 Oct 45 AC/AS, Int. Hull  
Date Initials

*ALLIED FORCES.*

*no modification*

*Allied Air Forces.*

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WHAT ~~IS~~ THE GERMANS SAYING?

No source of intelligence is more fruitful than the statement made by Germans themselves. Photo Interpretation, analysis of Captured Documents, the inspection by technicians of Captured and Crashed Aircraft, Intercepted Letters - all these give valuable information to the Intelligence officer. But the most authentic answers can be found in what the Germans themselves are saying.

What is the morale situation?

How about oil?

What really happened to Rommel?

How effective has our Tactical Bombing been?

The Germans themselves have answered these questions for us. Sometimes it is a tired young soldier - frequently an arrogant Nazi - other times a General - but whether a man from the ranks or from the High Command, the German prisoner talks and frequently talks freely.

Here is what the German is saying.

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The Commanding General  
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Initials

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Conversation of a German Brigadier General with a Group of German Officers just prior to the General's departure from the Interrogation Center, September 1944.

MORALE

Gen: "It is unbelievable that Bulgaria has declared war on us."

Off: "The entire world is fighting us again.. and now the Balkans."

Gen: "They want to divide us into small pieces."

Off: "Herr General, there is no longer any danger of your being shot down on your trip. There is no more talk about long-distance fighters."

Gen: "Yes, the Luftwaffe has failed. We must wait till the end of the war to know whether it is a result of the bombing of the factories."

Off: "Goering may be a great man but he is not an Army leader. He never could stand criticism."

Off: "One must be able to stand criticism if it is in the interest of the German people. Criticism is not the same thing as treachery. . . Well, General, how do you think it will end?"

Gen: "Germany hasn't a chance. That's certain."

Offs: "Good-bye and a pleasant trip."

SOURCE: Conversation among a group of German Officers. September 1944.

MORALE

"The war absolutely should have been avoided. Germany should have acquired space without the use of arms. But we don't have diplomats. It would have been different if we had known England wasn't armed. . . I wonder how it will all end. We took an oath to the Fuehrer. If they occupy Germany they will clean out the Nazis. For that reason I shall not be a traitor. Who is really to blame for the entire situation? No one else than the entire Officer Corps."

"Germany must no longer be ruled by fanatics. We need skilled politicians."

"I shall have nothing to do with politics if I get back safe and sound. For years I have worked and neglected my family. I feel abandoned by everyone."

"I envy the Swiss and the Swedes. They never wage war and live in peace."

SOURCE: Conversation among a group of TOP SECRET  
German officers, September 1944

"Yes, we have to have a war every 50 years. First 1870, then 1914, and now; and years ago the civil wars, etc. We think it honorable to wage war. We had dazzling victories and adventures but the people bleed."

"In my opinion, we will attempt to hold the Americans at the Westwall."

"But gentlemen! Consider the American and British Air Forces. How can you say we will hold them?"

"Well when we are encircled in Germany our air force will no longer be used for long distance flights but will bomb the front line."

"Yes, but our air force isn't getting any larger."

"Such foolishness! Our air force is destroyed; our industry is destroyed; and we have no more munitions. The Americans aren't letting their air force wander about idly."

"I wonder if they will accept an armistice?"

"No, never."

"We have lost; that's all. In thirty years we shall have to fight again."

\* \* \* \* \*

"It goes without saying that the forces in the East and West will march into Germany. It's bad enough at home without that. The bombings aren't helping matters either. There is nothing to eat and winter is coming."

"There will be only Communists after the war. The Allies will yield everything as long as they aren't affected."

"I think there will be different political parties."

"Don't you think the German soldier will continue to fight? He knows what will happen if the Russians enter Germany. The soldiers MUST be made fanatics."

"There was a time when they fooled the people. They can't do it any longer . . . the terror planes and the bombs have seen to that."

\* \* \* \* \*

"One thing is certain, we are still the Master Race. We are incomparable."

"No, all peoples say that of themselves. It has no values. The people no longer listen to these racial theories. . ."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Conversation among a group of German Officers.  
September 1944.

MORALE

"One can see in the large cities how tired the people are. If you go to work between 8:30 and 9:00 in the morning you can see all the older people sleeping. They are so tired they have to use these few minutes to rest. All of the rest of the time is bombs."

"The ideal state is one which is actually a kind of League of Nations. I conceive America, North America, to be such a state, where millions of peoples of different nationalities and races live peacefully together."

"Listen to the parlor-pink! (Laughter)  
There is no such thing as everlasting peace. It says in the Bible even that men will always fight again."

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Fuehrer will eat more carpets now."

"Yes, the entire Intelligence Corps failed. The ships were sighted at Ajaccio and everywhere else. And they did nothing."

SOURCE: Conversation between Brigadier General and  
a Colonel. September 1944.

MORALE

Gen: "The Fuehrer is hardly a mental giant. The real mind is Goebbels. Goebbels has such mastery over the actions and minds of the people that he has them right in his hand when he speaks. He is tremendously flexible intellectually and is far superior to the Fuehrer. Goering, on the other hand, can be dangerous personally but not intellectually. Goering is still the only one who can get close to the Fuehrer."

Col: "Yes, yes."

Gen: "The Fuehrer gives the impression of complete absent-mindedness. And yet he is the Master of the Mysterious. When I spoke with him, he was completely motionless and distant. Then life came into his dead face and he practically shouted his words."

Col: "Yes, what is the Fuehrer like, Herr General? Fascinating or dominating?"

Gen: "Masterful. We didn't remain standing there long. We soon went back to the car and on the way we had to cross a field. He stopped for a moment, looked over the beautiful countryside and said, 'What a beautiful country we have conquered!' Then he straightened up. Again he was the statesman. 'And just think, we didn't have to pay a penny for it! It was paid for by France and England!'

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Conversation between Brigadier General and a Colonel. September 1944.

MORALE

Gen: "Well, it will soon be all over."  
Col: "But it can't be over very soon."  
Gen: "Winter is coming; don't forget that."  
Col: "Good God! That it should come to this."  
Gen: "Yes, dear fellow, destiny, destiny."  
Col: "I never thought the American people could wage war like this."

SOURCE: German soldiers, 25 and 34 years of age. Conversation held 11 Nov. 1944

MORALE

K. Have you seen Berlin?  
R. I saw it last in February 1943.  
K. That's a long time ago. Since then TIERGARTEN, CHARLOTTENBURG and so on have been almost completely destroyed. I was in BERLIN on the 20th August and I was able to see how the people behaved after a big air attack. You should have heard them shouting, "Down with Hitler! He is a criminal against the German nation," and seen them chalking it up in big letters.

SOURCE: General, captured Sept. 1944 France.

MORALE

German troops lost their nerve as a result of Allied air supremacy. When an aircraft came over, the men were like frightened rabbits. The Allied bombing attack on BOULOGNE had been the very devil. An unending stream of bombers blasted a way into the town.

SOURCE: Information from General captured France Sept. 1944.

MORALE

The strength of the Air Force lies not so much in its ability to annihilate troops as in its effect on morale.

SOURCE: Fifty German prisoners reporting to the 5th Army Prisoner of War Cage, FLORENCE, Oct. 1944.

MORALE

A large group of German prisoners was being questioned shortly after capture. The interrogators probed eagerly for any eye-witnesses of the heavy October raid on Bologna.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Fifty German prisoners reporting to the 5th Army Prisoner of War Cage, FLORENCE, Oct. 1944.

MORALE

"On October 12th," he asked, "did any of you see a formation of several hundred planes headed for Bologna?"

A long silence ensued as the soldiers tried to fix the date in their minds. Finally a voice from the rear broke in:

"German or American planes?"

Instantly a gust of uproarious guffaws swept the prisoners. Minutes elapsed before interrogation could continue.

SOURCE: Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Center Army report issued early summer 1944.

MORALE

German soldiers, returning from service on the Russian front, came back singing a parody on the popular German song, "Lili Marlene", which runs as follows:

Auf den Strassen Russlands	On the roads of Russia
Marschiert das Battallion	Marches a battallion
Alles was ist übrig	All that was left
Von Greiners Division	Of the proud Greiner Division
Alle Leute sollen sehen	All the people should behold
Wie deutschen Waffen	How German troops
ruckwärts gehen,	backward march,
Wie einst Napoleon, wie	As once Napoleon, as
einst Napoleon.	once Napoleon.

SOURCE: Prisoner of War captured near EPINARD, 14 Oct. 44

MORALE

"The low flying attack is the horror of France....nothing can stir on the roads."

SOURCE: A rabid German Nazi speaks his piece during interrogation on 18 November 1944.

MORALE

"I hate and loathe everything that isn't German. If somehow or other I get back to Germany during this war I shall go on fighting till I fall down dead. I'd never let myself be taken prisoner again. . .and surely we had a jolly good time while it lasted. . .I loved being a soldier. . .I was born to be a warrior. . .I heard that the Fuehrer has gone

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A rabid German Nazi speaks his peice during  
interrogation on 18 November 1944. (cont'd)

MORALE

mad and has been throwing telephones about and  
gnawing rugs. . .BUT THAT'S NOT TOO HARD TO UNDERSTAND:  
TO BE BETRAYED ON SO MANY SIDES WOULD DRIVE ANY MAN CRAZY!!

SOURCE: Ground crew mechanic.

MORALE

"Our people in the Luftwaffe are slowly  
but surely becoming demoralized because they know  
that the enemy is always superior in numbers. We  
have so few machines in North Italy that it isn't  
safe to fly during the daylight hours any more."

SOURCE: An Infantry Corporal shortly returned from  
furlough in Leipzig, December 1944.

MORALE

". . .Who won't always remember those  
ghastly air attacks? Who doesn't think of the thou-  
sands of victims? The air raid casualties are almost  
as high as, if not higher than, those at the front.  
And still we fight. . ."

SOURCE: A thirty-year old prisoner unburdens himself  
after five years of war.

MORALE

". . .In our hearts we all pray for peace.  
All I can say is that it's a pity that a single one of  
us should still have to give his life.

. . .Mankind becomes more and more stupid  
as time goes on.

. . .Suddenly we are told that no one ever  
wanted the war. We are told that we were forced into  
it. That's utter nonsense and rubbish. It must be  
perfectly clear to everybody that we wanted war.

. . .Poland was merely a means to an end.  
It could have been taken with a few regular troops.  
It wasn't for that reason that a huge army was build  
up.

. . .The number of casualties in the last  
war were exceeded long ago. And that's saying something!!  
We helped ourselves to some lovely pieces of land. Austria  
and the Sudetenland - the Sudetenland we got without any  
objection being raised by England and France. Personally  
I think that was very generous of the English.

. . .Upper Silesia is the only place where the  
people are still working.

. . .What I say is that it wasn't our soldiers  
who lost the war. They put up a first-class fight. The  
mistakes lay elsewhere."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German deserter taken in North Italy  
in February 1944.

MORALE

"This swine, HITLER, if only he'd die and all his gangsters like HIMMLER and GOEBBELS with him!. HITLER hasn't spoken for a month now. What's happened to the creature - is he sick, or what?"

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War who deserted to the  
British in North Italy in late October 1944.

MORALE

"To think of all the people in Austria who were arrested as profiteers because they went to the farmers and exchanged an old pair of shoes for a little bit of bacon! They used to get from six to eight months for that sort of thing. And then the papers were always full of people who had been shot because they had slaughtered their own pigs and cows for the Black Market. . . . And in spite of everything, there are still people who believe in Hitler."

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War who deserted in  
February 1944 to Italian Partisans.

MORALE

"Another American officer told me that the Germans have some sort of new weapon now - a new grenade. But I don't believe any of it. The only thing Hitler's got is a trap that's too big for him!"

SOURCE: German paratrooper from AACHEN captured six  
miles south of FLORENCE 17 July 1944.

MORALE

"You will never win the war. It is impossible that Germany should ever give up. I myself have seen now 20 Germans have held off whole companies of Americans. And we have our V weapons. Even your own papers admit the damage they are doing. And soon we shall bombard America."

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War captured in mid-October  
1944 at PAROS, Greece.

MORALE

"There might be something in all the rumors one hears that Hitler is dead. If it is really true, then something is going to happen in Germany. No one will take the oath to Himmler. They'd have to bring out the whole of the SS with machine-guns first. I hate them all alike. I can't understand why the English say they aren't going to shoot them. Can it be because they'll all shoot themselves in the end? No, they'd never have courage enough to do that."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War captured in mid-October 1944 at PAROS, Greece. (cont'd)

MORALE

"But one has to admit that what the English and Americans are doing is right. Their policy is to hold the whip in one hand and offer a piece of bread and butter with the other."

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War, private, former editor of a small German newspaper, captured near FORLI, Italy, 12 November 1944.

MORALE

"I always thought there must still be some way of winning the war. But that's all over now, and we have got to pay for it."

SOURCE: Austrian infantry private who deserted near ALBADIA, Italy, 29 November 1944.

MORALE

"We were free in Austria and we were happy before the Nazis came. All of us in the village had work and enough to live on. We don't care who rules so long as the Nazis go."

SOURCE: Austrian infantry private captured near BOLOGNA 17 November 1944.

MORALE

"They take everything, these Nazis. At home they took my cattle and my pigs. In the army they even took my front teeth. These (pointing to a gap) only needed a little filling. But to save time they pulled them out instead, the swine. What can they want with my teeth?"

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War who deserted 24 November 1944 on the 5th Army Front.

MORALE

"Hitler has a new fighter which can do 750 miles per hour. They used this plane against the British paratroops in Holland. Don't forget you haven't anything like that!"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Austrian Prisoner of War who deserted from the German Army 24 November 1944 on the 5th Army Front.

MORALE

"These V-weapons are a filthy way of making war. They're only directed against the civilian population, never against soldiers. I can tell you, even if the Germans were to win the war, which I think is impossible anyway, I should never stay in Austria. Although it would be better than having the Russians, I'd rather go to Canada to cut wood for the rest of my life than see all these people strutting around in uniform and hear nothing but "Heil Hitler" wherever I go. Our major told us that we should trust in the Fuehrer and be confident - that V-weapons would be coming out, and so on. But later he changed his tune and said that the war wouldn't last much longer."

SOURCE: Polish escapee who in 1943 was in a labor battalion in HANNOVER, Germany.

MORALE

"The worst raid I saw in HANNOVER was in August 1943 and the worst part of it was after the bombs had stopped falling and screaming, frantic civilians were either trying to dig up their families out of the ruins or to get out of town before the next attack came. But all roads leading out of the city were barred by SS troops, and sneaking out by any other way was punishable by death. Some people were so desperate that they asked to be shot."

SOURCE: Hungarian leaders of the resistance movement who fled Hungary, 9 December 1944, seeking to establish relations with Allied military leaders.

MORALE

A remark made early in December 1944 by Pal Nemeth, Chief of the Hungarian General Staff for Air, and thereby second in command of the Hungarian Air Force, is noteworthy: "At the first opportunity of arranging an adequate destination, I would take the entire Hungarian Air Force over to the Allies, and two-thirds of the army, I am sure, would follow."

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SOURCE: Forty-eight old German Lt. Colonel, former C.O. of Prisoner of War Collecting Point No. 59 at STRASBOURG, captured in November 1944.

MORALE

"Because of the almost constant bombing of German cities, the people expect defeat and, therefore, their morale is bad. Confusion extends even to the army. There is an increasing number of officers from the Hitler Youth who are too young to enforce discipline. Commanding Officers receive contradictory orders not only from their military superiors but also from the Gestapo. It came to the point where I could obey no one Gestapo order without disobeying another."

SOURCE: Prisoner of war from HAMBURG captured in North Italy, November 1944.

MORALE

"Hamburg is dead and so is the harbor. The workers have been sent to inland factories and there are only children and old people left, all of them sick of the war."

"I think Britain will rebuild our harbor for us. In temperament and attitude as well as in common interests, we Hamburgers are really closer to the British than we are to most of the people of Germany."

SOURCE: Prisoner of War from HAMBURG captured in North Italy in November 1944.

MORALE

"The younger soldiers - boys in their teens - take the talk about V weapons seriously and still think we will win. Those of us who are older know that the only thing that can do us any good will be a weapon that can decide the outcome of the war. Neither V-1 nor V-2 has given any promise of this."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An intelligent German Corporal, captured near FORLI, December 1944.

MORALE

"Hitler wanted the war from the very beginning as a business proposition. He had it all coldly calculated beforehand, and his politics are proof of that. Think of the songs we sang as far back as 1933. Why did the Hitler Youth have to do field exercises? Why were the first German tanks tried out on Russian territory? Because at home it would have attracted too much attention. Do you remember the trade agreement with Russia? Suddenly Russia and the Bolsheviks were wonderful in spite of the Fatherland's political ideals. No, no, there was only one reason for the war and that was there from the very beginning: greed for personal power. Everyone was to worship the Fuehrer. The whole world was to shout 'Heil Hitler' just so that he could stand there and hold his arm up a little longer with a hidden splint for support, of course. What a wonderful achievement to hold his arm up for a whole hour, surrounded by shouts of 'Heil Hitler!'. Sometimes I try to imagine what would have happened if he had won the war. He would still have been nothing more than a fiendishly clever gangster, but in the eyes of the world he would have been a great man. As it is, he has Germany's decline and downfall on his conscience."

SOURCE: A wireless operator who, after 6 years' service deserted in Greece.

MORALE

"In Greece practically every man was billeted in a house and led a free and easy existence, while the local population had to crowd into little back rooms and every day grew more desperate with hunger. I know now what it's like when our soldiers leave a town. When we got to ATHENS, it was a flourishing city, and although nothing was actually destroyed there, we left behind only hunger and misery."

SOURCE: A twenty-year old paratrooper looks to the future.

MORALE

"Frankly, we had bad luck. And even if we do lose this war, then we'll win the next. . . and I hope I'm in it. If I can, I'm going to join the Waffen SS. You've got more freedom in it."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner of War captured in North Italy in October 1944.

MORALE

"Fifty percent of BERLIN has suffered severe damage from Allied air attacks. Whole sections of the city are gone, but every attack of your 'Terror-bombers' only stiffens the spirit of our people and our determination to win in spite of all."

"I am more certain of our eventual victory now than before I was captured. Whatever our morale is, it is better than yours. I have seen five years of war, have fought in Russia and in Italy. You cannot imagine my amazement when the captain who interviewed me after I was captured complained bitterly that the war would not be over by Christmas."

SOURCE: A young officer lauds and complains.

MORALE

"After the break-through at AVRANCHES there was the most awful confusion. The front wasn't stabilized till it had reached AACHEN and METZ. There's the military college in METZ and Hitler went there in person to speak to all young officers. 'The English and Americans are advancing' he told them, 'only your courage and endurance will be able to hold them. The whole future of Germany lies in your hands.' And they really pulled it off. All young chaps, armed with nothing but rifle, MP, MG, and rocket launchers. They had no heavy weapons whatsoever. At least a hundred of them were killed. But that won't be the last we've heard of this story. When I remember how our senior staff officers used to drink in France, and we were the ones who had to stick our heads out! And at home they just couldn't be bothered about us - we never got any reinforcements. And the sabotage that was going on! We used to get guns which could only shoot around a corner, and once we got a consignment of rocket-launchers which were filled with sand!"

SOURCE: Twenty-one year old student who had been arrested for the possession of "improper books" by Thomas Mann.

MORALE

"I'm opposed to any form of dictatorship. I want personal liberty. The German nation is stupid; it lets itself be roped in for anything with a bit of music and marching."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Naval Lieutenant fears the U.S.S.R.

MORALE

"You say it is 150 miles from Naples to Rome? That's about a 3-day advance by the Russians. Sure, they'll beat us. It's the old story. Every dog has his day.. First everything was Social Democracy; then came all the 'Heils'; and next everything will be Red Front. We can hand in our cards then...."

SOURCE: German Army Major, 35 years of age, intelligent and strongly critical of the Nazi Government's war policy. Captured at METZ, 20 Nov. 1944.

MORALE

"What a headache the Fuehrer must have! Two million killed in Russia alone. And that's only those who are actually killed in action - they don't count those who die in hospitals. Whole divisions have been practically wiped out. My company lost four officers in the last three weeks in CASSINO. Then desertions: I had a corporal who was absent without leave. I had to punish him: two days later he deserted. Another of my fellows was belly-aching to get home to Germany - couldn't let him go - so off he went on his own. He was caught though and sent back to the front - to CASSINO. He wasn't there long; he soon deserted to the British."

SOURCE: A paratrooper Lieutenant has his regrets.

MORALE

"It's a marvel that things have gone as well as they have. . . We ought to have beaten England in 1940, or at the latest in 1941. Well, when we are through with Russia, we'll be able to deal with them. I'm sorry I shan't be there. I'd have enjoyed invading England."

SOURCE: A German corporal asks himself a few questions.

MORALE

"What have we really got out of life? . born in the middle of the war, children during the inflation, to school in the depression, our lives regimented for the last ten years by Nazism and the Army, and now prisoners. What sort of life is that? Isn't it better to live in a free country where you can vote for a different government whenever you please? It isn't freedom we are fighting for now; it is for a lost cause. And when we prisoners get home, probably a year after peace is signed, what shall we do when we find that our wives have been behaving like a lot of Frenchwomen - and finding pleasure in it too?"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A sympathetic Austrian relates a conversation he had with a "security conscious" Nazi after the arrival of the "secure" one at the Interrogation center.

MORALE

Nazi: "Did you ever see the film called 'Captivity'?"

Austrian: "No."

Nazi: "I saw it two weeks before I was captured. This place here is exactly like the one shown in the film. They show you the English taking away all their possessions from the German prisoners, how they put them in solitary confinement to break down their morale, and how they are interrogated. They show you how the interrogation officer pretends to be friendly and offers the prisoners cigarettes and asks them to sit down. In the film they advise you not to accept cigarettes and win a moral victory over the officer in that way and get him off his balance. And that's just what I'm going to do. If he offers me a chair I shall say 'No, thank you. I prefer to stand', and if he offers me a cigarette, I'll say, 'No, thank you. I have given up smoking since I became a prisoner,' and if he asks me for information, I'll say, 'Even though I'm a prisoner, I am still true to the Fuehrer!'"

(Interrogator's note: That afternoon the prisoner sat, smoked, and talked.)

SOURCE: A Sergeant of the infantry captured on 5th Army Front.

MORALE

"I wonder how much there is behind all this Volkssturm (People's Army) business. There's not a soul in Germany today who still feels like fighting and it would be just the same with me if I were there. No one can keep up with the speed of the Allies' advance. They've captured the first prisoners from the Volkssturm already. Things will soon have come to such a pass that one's own wife will be handling a rifle."

SOURCE: A twenty-three year old Corporal from BRESLAU.

MORALE

If the Nazis were to win the war, just think of the things the SS would do then! Even having the Russians at home would be preferable to that. The church would be done for in any case. I'm Catholic myself and I believe that all nations are entitled to a free existence. It's only common sense, really. We can't say that we are better than other peoples; that would mean the end of the freedom of man."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An officer captured on the 5th Army Front,  
December 1944.

MORALE

"It's no good trying to make war with the soldiers one gets now. All the best ones were left behind in Russia. I know a captain who has an eye injury that he doesn't even notice - he goes swimming, plays handball - he's really a strong chap who just stooges about at home; while one of my privates who has a glass eye is sent to the front! My battalion adjutant has never had to do without a thing. He's been at home in Germany since 1940 - I just don't understand it. No, I can't understand why they send people with glass eyes and wooden legs and heaven knows what into the front line. If they lose the war, they've got only themselves to blame. The situation reports I used to write! At night all the ammunition had to be dragged up to a height of 1600 meters - all these 60 pounders. And all the bringing up of supplies and all the digging in had to be done by night. And then they made two battalions out of one company!"

SOURCE: Infantry Private and ex-librarian.

MORALE

"I'm quite sure, you know, that there's definitely something wrong with Hitler. As soon as he realizes that all his supporters are leaving him, his reason will leave him, too. And when that happens, the moral among the fighting troops will sink even lower than it is now. He tried V-1 and he tried V-2 - nothing but failures. That man is not only desperate but mad. The people ruling Germany now are Himmler and his hang-men. Himmler is a murderer pure and simple. If the Allies get hold of him, they'll kill him without question and that'll be the only right thing to do."

SOURCE: Infantry Sergeant, captured 14 November 1944.

MORALE

"I'm proud to have fought to the last and not deserted. We have to win the war. I don't want it to be over. I want it to go on until we Germans have shown the world that we are the strongest."

SOURCE: An Army truck-driver captured in Greece,  
4 November 1944.

MORALE

"Tito is probably the greatest soldier this war has produced. It's a pity that he isn't fighting for a just cause."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A former Luftwaffe pilot captured on  
15 October 1944.

MORALE

"I specially took my wife to BERLIN (August 1944) with me just to let her see for herself what things were like there, because she would never believe me when I wrote about it in my letters. Well, we were walking towards the KURFÜRSTENDAMM and came past the Cafe Leon and there were girls still sitting with their nails all painted red, all dressed up, with a lot of young play-boys, flirting quite shamelessly, not the least disturbed by the people walking past. Just think of that, in the sixth year of war! You can still get all the food you want. We went into quite an ordinary restaurant and there the lunch consisted of oyster soup, cold meat, venison, all sorts of vegetables, and then desert. And I even ordered a bottle of white bordeaux and a bottle of champagne, which admittedly cost 30 Marks, but it was a really first-class lunch. My wife simply couldn't understand it. I bet you that I could live in BERLIN even now without ration cards - you can get everything without them - there are all sorts of rackets. It's impossible to get tickets for the theater. We tried again in the evening but everything was sold out. And the people still drove up in cars, too. They are all out for entertainment more than ever before. The BURCKMULLER, which had been completely bombed out, had been done up and was opened again - that is to say it had been completely rebuilt. I ask you, what on earth for? And in times like this too, when there are more important things to rebuild and manpower is needed more than ever before. We were looking at the shops in the KURFÜRSTENDAMM, and I said to my wife, 'Let's just see how many of these shops could be closed down,' and over a short stretch up from the KURFÜRSTENDAMM we found at least twelve shops which could simply have been closed down altogether as they were quite unnecessary. Why do we still need a radio shop and a jeweller's shop and a perfume shop and a milliner's? It's all absolutely unnecessary. I showed it all to my wife and she was quite taken aback and didn't want to believe it at first. But that's how it is; that's BERLIN; and then they keep on talking about 'Total War'."

SOURCE: A German officer captured 10 November 1944.

MORALE

"We haven't any new weapons. We should put a stop to it and sue for a sensible peace on the basis of: What we've got, we keep!"

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Unteroffizier (Cpl) captured in North Italy,  
November 1944

MORALE

"The army isn't allowed to go about in the streets with arms, and the SS must always be armed. When you come home on leave, you have to leave your arms in your own house. We were issued a leaflet telling us to do that. But the SS are always armed. Why are they moving troops out of the towns and putting SS men in their place?"

SOURCE: Prisoner of War, thirty-year old Berliner,  
until September 1944 clerk in Personnel  
Department of War Office (OKH).

MORALE

"One of the government's mistakes was that they never treated the workers properly. If there were only someone like Hindenburg, who was strong enough to stand on his own feet! He'd never tolerate the Nazis for a moment. For if you think of it, all that they've done is to bathe the world in blood. I'm glad to say that personally I've never had anything to do with the Party. The only thing I belonged to was the Labor Front and membership of that was compulsory."

SOURCE: Prisoner of War, former engineer from INSSBRUCK  
captured in North Italy, 17 September 1944.

MORALE

"Anyone who believes in victory nowadays, whatever his political views, is simply deceiving himself."

SOURCE: A Luftwaffe ground-crew sergeant captured  
in Southern France, September 1944.

MORALE

"My god, a man who hasn't been captured by the Maquis and dragged through the town hasn't seen anything! I really gave up all hope. It was a far worse experience than being dive-bombed. Only about ten of them were actually members of the Maquis, all the others were civilians armed with revolvers. Things were looking rather black - there were only ten or fifteen of us left. It was terrible. After all, we've all got too little combat experience."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Corporal from LEIPZIG captured near FAENZA, Italy, in December 1944.

MORALE

"Yes, that's very true. And Germany requires help from outside if she is to get rid of Nazism. Alone, we're too weak to do it. Everyone screams 'Heil Hitler', everyone feels himself too small to be able to do anything about it even if his convictions are the very opposite to National Socialism. But, I can tell you, I don't care a damn what happens, or which of the three Allies occupies LEIPZIG after the war, provided that I can once again be a free man and act, think and speak in freedom."

SOURCE: Infantry private captured at the ANZIO Bridgehead, 20 February 1944.

MORALE

"We shall go back some day. And whether it's a victory or a defeat for Germany, we're done for. Reading the German Press five months ago, you would have believed that our glorious retreat was merely a preparation for a new offensive and that the next morning we were going to land on the English coast and be in LONDON for lunch."

SOURCE: Corporal puts his Fuehrer on the Hit Parade.

MORALE

Es geht alles vorueber,	Everything soon will be over
Es geht alles vorbei;	Everything's passing away;
Im Dezember fiel Stalingrad,	Stalingrad came in December
Und Tunis in Mai.	Tunis was taken in May.
Es geht alles vorueber,	Everything soon will be over,
Es geht alles vorbei;	Everything's passing away;
Dieses Jahr geht der Fuehrer;	This year the end of the
	Fuehrer
Und dann die Partei.	The Nazis will go the same
	day.

SOURCE: Captured German Lieutenant from a motorized infantry unit on the Italian Front.

MORALE

"When one comes here from Russia, one wishes one were back there again. When the 16th Armored Division was sent back to Russia, every man shouted for joy."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A German officer captured in Italy 14 December 1944.

MORALE

"What a war this is! The whole world is against us. Poor little Germany. She won't be able to fight against such odds for long. One might be able to beat the Americans and perhaps even the English, but not in addition to the Russians. All these silly inventions of ours will be the end of us, only because the Fuehrer refuses to use the one weapon which we've had all the time for sake of sparing the English and the Americans. After all, they use chemical warfare, too. We used to have those shells which were marked "Only to be used on order of the Fuehrer". Why don't we start using them? I know we have the weapons, but the people at home are already saying that if we still had anything new we would be using it by now."

SOURCE: Sergeant-Major captured on the 5th Army Front, 19 November 1944.

MORALE

"These torpedos of ours are really good, but when one thinks of the masses of equipment the Allies have, one realizes it's hopeless. I flew over the Harbor at NAPLES and the shipping there is terrific! We've lost the war for certain. If only the attempt on Hitler's life of July 20 (1944) had been a success! Of course, when it happened I condemned the officers who tried it like every other German did, but now I understand that these were men who loved their country so deeply that they were prepared to die for it. It was very hard for me when shortly after my capture I was forced to admit to myself how terribly stupid I and all the others had been and that I'd really had an opinion of my own. Our leaders certainly knew how to keep us in the dark."

SOURCE: Infantry Corporal captured at CASOLI, Italy, 20 July 1944.

MORALE

"A German soldier never retreats; no, he does an about face and goes on marching forward."

SOURCE: An ex-Socialist Sergeant of engineers from LEIPZIG.

MORALE

"The only reason that I can think of why Hitler didn't lose his life on the 20th of July is that the powers in Heaven have already decided on a far worse death for him. It was not intended that he should die as a martyr because Goebbels, that filthy hypocrite, would have made use of that in his propaganda."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry captain captured near BOLOGNA,  
September, 1944.

MORALE

"In RUSSIA we got a lot of "Volksdeutsche" as replacements.. It had a frightful effect. They didn't want to do anything. They'd been forced to join the Army and had had their property confiscated by the Party. They used to come to me quite often and say: "Well, sir, why should I fight? I've nothing to defend. What have I to fight for?"

SOURCE: An SS man captured on 5th Army Front,  
22 October 1944.

MORALE

"One could get on well with the Americans if there weren't so many emigrants among them. The Jews are so narrow minded, there are things they just can't forget."

SOURCE: Prisoner of War of the Medical Corps.

MORALE

"One thing one must say - you've always fought very fairly. You've treated our wounded mar-  
velously, even better than we treat our own. I was amazed."

SOURCE: SS deserter who surrendered to Partisans,  
November 1944.

MORALE

"The SS have restless nights now. One of them said to me: 'I don't get any peace, I'm so restless at night. But we must sit tight, this misery in GERMANY must bring us closer together! ' They've realized for quite a long time that GERMANY is nearly finished and now they are asking themselves: 'Where can we go, oh where can we go?' They don't know where to go any longer. If they meant to go to SWITZERLAND, that's impossible. The Swiss don't want anything to do with the Germans. It's a good thing that they have nowhere to go."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry private whose family had been bombed out of two homes in HAMBURG.

MORALE

"Well, I told my old man what to do, to take to his bed and stay there. I believe that he's brought it off, too. None of my family have any desire left to go on working for Adolf."

SOURCE: Army clerk, captured in Italy, 14 December, 1944.

MORALE

"The other day one of our men was sentenced to death for selling his rifle for four pounds of coffee. In our company they recently read out a sentence of death passed on a deserter. The children of a deserter are sent to reformatories and the wife gets no allowance at all - sometimes she is even sent to a concentration camp."

SOURCE: A young, intelligent student captured in Italy, December 1944.

MORALE

"If we lose the war, there will be a dangerous civil war in Germany. Everyone knows that, but no-one has the courage to discuss it, because everyone's first thought is to get home again, but on the other hand they're afraid of getting back, too."

"....Bolshevism doesn't hold the same terror for Germany now that it did before."

".....Communism is certainly no worse than National Socialism. Actually there has never been a system which has been guilty of so many crimes against the people as National Socialism. Our 'leaders' are men without character, whereas STALIN is definitely a man of character and principle in spite of the fact that he is an autocrat."

SOURCE: A former newspaper writer captured near VIAREGGIO, Italy, 15 September, 1944.

MORALE

"We can never win the war, but perhaps we won't lose it either."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A non-Aryan Corporal of the engineers  
captured at TREGUANTA, Italy, 2 July 1944.

MORALE

"I was completely ruined by the Nazis. I had a small business of my own, but as I'm not 100% Aryan, I had to shut up shop: no one would make any more deliveries to me. Then a friend of mine managed to get me a so-called charity job in a newspaper office, and - a fortnight - I was given notice. I never managed to get another job from the Labor Exchange. Then I was called to the Army. I was brought before the C.O. He told me that, in spite of my not being a pure Aryan, I should be given a chance to prove myself a German in the front. My wife, with whom I'd lived for years in greatest happiness, was forced by her parents - who were red-hot Nazis - to divorce me. Of course, not being a pure Aryan, I couldn't be given any decorations. The only reason I was promoted to Corporal was that I once happened to get into conversation with a Lieutenant Colonel. My company commander never knew anything about it until after it happened."

SOURCE: Lieutenant, 3rd Field Reinforcement Battalion,  
captured near ROME, June 1944.

MORALE

"The Minister of Public Health has recently brought out a law that old people who are ill and won't live much longer can be done away with. Lunatics in asylums are simply got rid of, too, because the Government can't see any sense in keeping the people alive. The most incredible things happen. Faked certificates are made out and names invented for signatures. We have reached the point in Germany where a man can just be done away with like a criminal, without law coming into it at all. The idiots have even gone so far as to work out plans after the war for every man to marry two wives, because otherwise there would be too many spinsters. Polygamy, like the Arabs. All we need now is exemption from work for the male population."

SOURCE: German infantry Sergeant captured in Greece  
December 1944.

MORALE

"When you take a look at the airdromes here, around ROME and NAPLES, it seems as if the Allies had put their entire air forces on them. A simply incredible number of machines! And just think of what we've got! Why, if we put in an attack with fifteen aircraft it's considered a major effort; whereas the Americans never attack with less than a thousand nowadays...In Greece we're reduced to driving around the place with dummy tanks. They consist of an Autoblitz, with a dummy Panther on it. Armament consists of one machine gun. They say it's going to be a hard winter. I don't like to think of the fate of the people who have been bombed out. And they still bellow 'Heil!' They want a total war and they've certainly got one."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German infantry private captured in Southern France, August 1944.

MORALE

"I knew KOLN, AACHEN, BONN and FRANKFURT in pre-war days; they're hardly recognizable now. I went through the Rhineland again recently. It was astounding, everything is in ruins; hardly anything is left standing; and that swine promises to rebuild everything within two years and make it look even nicer---what rubbish! He's been talking about retribution for ten years trying to fool the German people and keep them down so that the mass of the people who lost their homes on the Rhine would still follow him. But it won't work. There's never been so much damage and suffering before. You know, I'm so glad I was taken prisoner; now I can tell you everything; I've been waiting for this opportunity for years. I don't regard it as treason."

SOURCE: A human-torpedo man captured off RIMINI, October 1 1944.

MORALE

"....I'll do anything for Germany. You can shoot me, I am not afraid."

"....You'll probably torture us. The British Secret Service is known the whole world over and they have already murdered a number of people. It doesn't matter whether one more is killed or not. Quite a number have been killed already."

"....And if we are killed, then we die for the future of Germany. We don't do it for ourselves, but for those who come after us, so that they can live as free people."

".....It would be a dirty trick if you torture us a long time, I would rather be shot straight away. And if you shoot me and offer me a last wish, then I'll ask for my German uniform. I won't be shot in civilian clothes. I want to die as a German soldier."

SOURCE: A young Nazi parachutist.

MORALE

"I'm a parachutist, and I can tell you one thing. If it comes to a battle, my division will never fall back. And even if we run out of ammunition, we'll fight on, using our rifles as clubs."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: 18-year old German deserter from STETTIN.

MORALE

"If a German deserts, he does it alone, never in a crowd. He does it like that because there's no-one whom he trusts. I only wish our soldiers knew what things are like over here. They wouldn't merely desert at the rate of a hundred a day, but the whole lot of them would chuck away their arms and come over. The food they have here - it's ages since I had anything like it."

SOURCE: Anti-aircraft officer taken prisoner by a 5th Army patrol, 4 December 1944.

MORALE

"Why don't we see any of our planes? Because we don't have any! If you're in Russia you're told that the air force is in Italy; if you're in Italy then you're told that it is in the West; and if you're in the West then you're told that it is in Russia. I saw something of the situation. At BOLOGNA there were exactly 16 planes! It made my hair stand on end!"

SOURCE: Armored Force Lieutenant taken prisoner south of BOLOGNA, October 12 1944.

MORALE

"We are a nation with queer faults. Now that we are prisoners-of-war, we are beginning to hate the Germans ourselves."

SOURCE: Austrian army private captured by a 5th Army patrol in November 1944.

MORALE

"The Gestapo has always had the situation well in hand---they're like wild animals and have no feelings at all. If anybody threw a stone at German troops or said anything against the Government he was shot. Once they shot six Poles in public in the market-place. No body knew why. It haunts me. There's so much people can't say. This keeping your mouth shut all of the time gets you down."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An Austrian infantry private, educated in BERLIN captured at SERAVEZZA, Italy, 18 November 1944.

MORALE

"Politically the Germans are fools. They are incapable of thought. They didn't give a thought to their homes, and got themselves into a war. It suited the officers all right, their pay is pretty good in wartime. But nevertheless they go and lose the war every time, and Germany gets smaller and smaller. Don't you believe that we should have been allowed to keep our colonies if we hadn't gone to war? War causes us to lose everything."

SOURCE: German Air Force Corporal captured off ORAN, 12 July 1944.

MORALE

"If we had only a third of the machines you got we should be all right. All we have left now is our "iron will", and we can't fly in that. And think of all the things we've been promised about settling with the English and our retaliation weapons. Fortunately they've at least put out V-1 and V-2 now - if it hadn't been for that the nation would have lost all faith in a victorious end long ago. There's nothing we can do against the superiority of the Allies- although they fight very cautiously and always consider their men first. But production in America goes on entirely undisturbed so that the Allies can't help winning in the end, even if they only advance very slowly on every front. And of course our factories are bombarded day and night, we can't possibly keep step with them. But the Fuehrer is an idealist, I think he'd rather shoot himself than escape to a foreign country when the end comes. That's to say, if he lives to see the end."

SOURCE: A German infantry officer captured near ORVIETO, Italy, June 14, 1944.

MORALE

"Yet we must win. If we don't win we'll be an oppressed nation. We wouldn't be free; and so we have no other choice but to win. Not that they'd murder us all, I know they wouldn't do that. But slowly and surely the German idea would perish. It is not a question of National Socialism, the crucial point is that the Germans were an intelligent race. This present slogan that woman and every child will fight is quite right. Because we don't fight for ourselves, but for our children and for our future. And so it is justifiable that we should expect that everybody who can defend himself should fight. It is a pity though that precious blood should be shed... And the Russians won't slaughter us, either; our propaganda says they will, but I don't believe it. The Russians will take all our children away from Germany and send them to Russia. They will be educated there; and you can easily imagine the results. They won't be Germans; they'll be Russians, and they will have Russian ideas. The National Socialist generation dies out, and then Germany will be wiped off the map."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Private in the signal corps taken prisoner at TUSCANIA, Italy, 10 June 1944.

MORALE

"If America becomes really annoyed she'll just send over her Air Force to spray us with gas and that will be the end."

SOURCE: Captain of a rifle Battalion, captured near VELLETRI, 2 June 1944.

MORALE

"A lot of the blame must be put on the enlisted man. When I went into action again after 1942 I noticed that the men were of much poorer quality. There was less feeling for National Socialism, and idealism was licking. Stalin was much more successful - he put a political Commissar in every company."

SOURCE: A German Air Force Corporal taken prisoner near VANITSA, Greece, 4 November 1944.

MORALE

"Yes, if you Americans hadn't come into the war, it would have been all over by now. Still, we must admit that you are our only hope; with your help we may get some peace. The other opponents will never allow Germany to rise again. We shall have to thank America for whatever little we are left with and which-ever rights are granted us after the war. As a prisoner, of course, one doesn't lose too much sleep over Germany's difficulties."

SOURCE: German officer captured in Southern France, September 1944.

MORALE

"What nonsense this talk is about 'retribution' weapons, none of which really exist! And what right have we suddenly to start self-righteously threatening 'retribution'? We bombed LONDON, didn't we? And now, when the other side is stronger, we start appealing to the enemy's humanity and scream to the people to hold on."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Staff Officer captured at METZ, France  
20 November 1944.

MORALE

"We are always talking about our fight for freedom and, again, about terrorists and the rabble. But they are the ones who are really fighting for freedom."

SOURCE: Brigadier General captured at STRASBOURG, France, 23 Nov. 44. The General tricked his captors into letting him telephone his headquarters after his capture. He was also able to destroy, without their notice, his orders which he was holding in his hand when taken prisoner.

MORALE

Prisoner of war states that he is a Nazi, although not a Party member, and that he has been one since 1923. He adds, "Under National Socialism I have risen to an important position and I did what little I could to help them. Should I break with them now? No!"

SOURCE: Brigadier General captured at STRASBOURG, France, 23 November 1944.

MORALE

"Once I had the good fortune to sit at the same table with the Fuehrer at a small party. It made an unforgettable impression on me and I still consider myself fortunate that I have shaken the Fuehrer's hand."

SOURCE: SS man captured near TOULON, France 24 Aug. 44.

MORALE

"The SS is the only group under arms that carries out my idea of what a German soldier should be."

SOURCE: Paratrooper, Private First Class, captured near BOLOGNA, 11 November 1944.

MORALE

Prisoner of war, whose political convictions are lukewarm at the most, was beaten up by two non-commissioned officers of his company who are fanatical Nazis. On complaining to his CO, the Lieutenant summoned all three.

"Did you strike this man?" he asked the two NCO's.

"Yes," came the answer.

"And with what?"

The unteroffiziers replied that they had used

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Paratrooper, Private First Class, captured near BOLOGNA, 11 November 1944. (cont'd)

MORALE

"Shameful! And you call yourselves German soldiers! If anything like this happens again, you will answer to me. Next time use your rifle butts!"

SOURCE: Austrian infantryman captured near BOLOGNA, 21 October 1944.

"The fuel problem is such that Germany must soon go down in defeat, and my Austria with her. That is no tragedy. No, the tragedy is the war itself that has been wished on Germany as punishment for her crimes against the Jews. The worst is not the bombings and what they have done to the German cities, but what the war and the bombings have done to the German soul. Culture cannot live in a climate of hate, and that is why this Weltkrieg has spelled the death of German culture, perhaps of all civilization in the West.

"Your soldiers are luckier than ours. Somehow or other the American is able to slough off the effects of front line fighting - the German, no. The American soldier in the trenches gets his mail from home and is able to escape, if only for a moment, from the realities of battle. He is able to think of an 'after the war' and 'away from the war'. But for the German soldier, there is no 'away from the war', and he dreads the mail from home because it brings the front to his home, not his home to the front.

"This is what the war has done to Germany and to Austria with her. They talk, of course, of a free and independent Austria, but I don't see how that can be. Economically Austria must lean either toward Hungary or Germany and racial and spiritual factors make the latter choice inevitable. The regime that brought about the Anschluss may not remain but the Anschluss itself will endure."

SOURCE: Captain, SS anti-tank unit, taken prisoner south of PISA, Italy, 23 July 1944.

MORALE

"You say the coming generation of Germans must be educated away from war. I tell you to your face that no foreign 'propaganda' will ever change the German heart. Even in defeat the German will rule. The science, the knowledge, the advancement of the world lie in our hands. We will always rule. It is in our blood and if this war does not prove it to the world, we shall fight again and again, if need be."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry corporal captured at TRIBIANO,  
Italy, 27 September 1944.

MORALE

"The German Luftwaffe is still something to be reckoned with. It lacks only fuel. But for this shortage, my brother-in-law in the Luftwaffe tells me, we would have won long ago. We have three times as many planes as the Americans, the fliers say, and at least three pilots for every plane. And our V-3 will bring the war to New York and Washington.

"Berlin will never be destroyed by Allied planes. What you have done to our capitol can't be compared at all to what our planes have done in London. London is 80% more keputt than Berlin - the very photographs show that. In fact, England was just about knocked out of the war. In Italy nearly all the planes you see are American, hardly every any British.

"Your terror bombers are horrible things. If there were ever any people in Germany before the war who wished they were in America, there aren't any more. People don't like to see their churches and school-houses bombed to bits!"

SOURCE: A Lieutenant captured at MONTE FORTINO on  
21 November, 1944.

MORALE

"We are working on our air force and we shall succeed. Time is on our side now, not against us. Right is on the side of the victors. We must hope for a turn in the fortunes of war. We shall go on fighting to the last man; our young lads and girls will defend their country."

SOURCE: Thirty-three year old infantryman from  
VIENNA captured near MONTE CIMONE, Italy,  
14 November 1944.

MORALE

"The steps taken against the Church and the destruction of cultural institutions through this accursed Nazi movement didn't make any friends for the Nazis among the Austrians. The Catholic Church has played a big role in Austria for five hundred years. It's like butting your head against a brick wall to try to get people to worship Hitler instead of the Virgin Mary."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Sergeant, German Air Force War Correspondent, captured at LE CACCIOLE/SIENNA, Italy 3 July 1944.

MORALE

"A reporter wrote an article saying that days had gone by without anything being done at a time when it would have been easy to save the whole situation. The report reached the War Office, someone signed it, and it appeared in the newspapers. There was a hell of a scandal; the editions with the article were withdrawn. Then an order was issued to all reporters that no criticisms were to be made in their articles; any such criticism would be regarded as sabotage."

SOURCE: Paratrooper officer candidate captured at SAN PIETRO, Italy 30 November 1944.

MORALE

"What worries me most of all is that Hitler didn't make a speech this time. It puts all sorts of ideas into one's head. I never thought it would come to all this. Serbia and the whole of the Balkans are lost, the Russians are in Budapest, so how on earth can the German Army withdraw from Yugoslavia? One doesn't know whether to believe it or not, but there's something very fishy going on all the same. The enemy has suddenly become too strong for us. One could see that in France when the various beachheads grew to enormous proportions overnight. I remember the terrific boasting all the cinemas gave to the Atlantic wall. And then the Allies just walked over it!"

SOURCE: Medical Corps Private captured at CISTERNA, 27 April 1944.

MORALE

"Hitler doesn't mind, he'll sacrifice the last German in order to live a few more days and make history. Don't forget we've already seven million killed."

SOURCE: Second Lieutenant of Engineers captured at AQUINO, 20 May 1944, expresses his fear of the Poles.

MORALE

"Their hatred of us is understandable. You know what we did in 1939. How we behaved in WARSAW! We made ourselves comfortable, killed their women and children, and smashed and stole everything we could lay hands on. One can understand all right why they hate us."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Lieutenant Commander captured at MARSHALL IS.,  
25 August 1944.

MORALE

"The introduction of the Hitler salute into the Army was very badly received and there were quite a few who simply refused to do it. In the Navy the morale is still fairly high but the discontent amongst the older Generals and Colonels in the Army has almost reached boiling point and since the 20th of July everything has got much worse."

SOURCE: Austrian deserter taken prisoner near  
VILLETTRI, 31 May 1944.

MORALE

"Yes, that's one of the things that just drives me mad, the dilatoriness of the British bureaucracy.... You know, there were never any real 'Party Nazis' in Austria; they were all 'Business Nazis'. You see what I mean? The merchants and business men were quite prepared to take part in the sort of politics which only involved hanging out a lot of flags; and the general mass of the people were far too stupid to realize that behind all this there lay the aspirations for the German Empire. All that the mob wanted was to get rich quick, to join in when the more fanatical Nazis plundered and pillaged the Jewish shops, and so perhaps scrounge themselves the odd tidbit. They say that the Englishman conquered ROME with his bottle of beer; but he could win over the whole of VIENNA with a packet of cigarettes.... But I'm afraid there are very few who would be prepared to enter an Austrian Legion. Mark you, I would myself! The way I personally look at it is, what does it matter if I have to go on carrying a rifle for another six months for a good cause like the Freedom of Austria, when for the last five years I've been conscripted against my will to fighting for something utterly worthless? Yes, I tell you, the Americans can count on me..... But of course it's not in any way a simple matter. There are so many Austrians who have deserted in the same way as I have but whose only motive in doing so was the saving of their own skins. And that's not the sort of man that you want. The trouble is, we never were a brave people."

SOURCE: A Nazi Brigadier General captured at STRAS-  
BOURG, France, 24 Nov. 44, comments on one  
of his subordinates who, incidentally, did  
not surrender.

MORALE

"He was a dirty dog.... He was a swine. A socialist and a democrat. A bad sort."

SOURCE: A Brigadier General makes a bright remark.

MORALE

"The leaders could hardly risk an election today."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Colonel captured near STRASBOURG, France  
23 November 1944.

MORALE

"I am terribly afraid that in the interval before the Allies march in, there will be all kinds of trouble and destruction at home.....Soon there will be a famine. And when the people see they have been deceived they will seek out the guilty ones and tear them limb from limb.....and the soldiers coming back will join in....some of them were insolent soon after we were captured. Everyone hates us, even our Allies. It makes you stop and think. Perhaps we are immature and not yet ready to rule others."

SOURCE: What the Generals say.

MORALE

A German General officer captured during the Battle of France admits that Germany may lose the war and in view of this plans to learn Russian.

Another, captured in Tunis, intends to invest his savings in British "Defense Bonds" on which he can get 3% interest.

A third, who surrendered in France, says that Rommel was in sympathy with the attempt on Hitler's life and suggests that the doctor in attendance "helped" Rommel to die."

SS officer with rank equivalent to Regular Army General, taken prisoner near LIEZE, 7 September 1944, states: "The fighting spirit of the German is first and foremost the will to survive. The German people wish to survive and are fighting for that.. In my opinion it has nothing to do with the Party."

SOURCE: German Colonel captured at AACHEN, 21 Oct. 44.

MORALE

Prisoner of war states that there is an order whereby all repatriated or returning prisoners of war are arrested and segregated. This order was introduced by the Nazis because they feared that these men would talk too much.

Prisoner of war states further that the Nazis at the head of things are only continuing the fight in order to prolong their own lives at the expense of the German people. "If Hitler remains in command, the fighting will continue as far as Berlin and the whole of Germany will be devastated. The Army has become a Himmler organization."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner of War, former farmer from TRIER on the Luxemburg border, granted leave from 23 Nov - 23 Dec 44, because of a "threat to his civilian existence". (The American 1st Army, then about 5 kilometers away.)

MORALE

"I got home to find that my family had been evacuated, and my farm house partially destroyed by shell fire. Even though artillery fire from both sides was going over our property, I am sure that my family and all the other farm families, would have preferred to stay in their own cellars rather than to be evacuated to strange and unfriendly surroundings a few kilometers to the rear. We know that the only reason that the Nazis moved us off the farms is so that they could plunder what was left. The people in the villages, where there was nothing to plunder, were not forced to move. I saw the SS shoot two of my hogs and when I appeared, they said they thought the house was deserted. They also took my four cows and one horse. The Americans can't come too soon for all the farmers in my neighborhood."

SOURCE: A German Infantry Captain, captured at CAMERLONA, Italy, 5 December 1944.

MORALE

"I had a talk with an English Lieutenant after I was captured and he talked so convincingly that if he had been a German, and not an enemy, I should have had to admit he was quite right. After all, what have we achieved recently? What are we still hoping for: Secret Weapons? It's all nonsense. I spoke to people as far back as August who hadn't much hope even then. My personal opinion is that he is right. He said that the German people were continuing the struggle to save the lives of a few bigshots who intend to bleed a brave nation to death."

SOURCE: German Air Force Private who deserted to EAM near ATHENS, 13 October 1944.

MORALE

"You should have seen the plane in which they brought me over. Room for twenty passengers and hardly anybody in it. Masses of luggage, all first rate stuff, and no fuss and bother, no shouting; in fact, the exact opposite of what happens in the Luftwaffe. There was an American looking after us. Everybody pulled out cigarettes and offered them to everybody else - can you imagine anything like it in the German Army? And the food we got was terrific. It really makes one want to stay with the Americans after the war just to see it."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Twenty-four year old Lieutenant in the German Air Force, shot down off CORSICA, 5/6 August 1944.

MORALE

"Wretched, unhappy Germany. It will be at least thirty years before we can wage another war!"

SOURCE: Lieutenant, 278th Artillery Regiment, captured at VILLA FRANCA, Italy, 14 November 1944.

MORALE

"Do you know what one of my NCO's did? He was taken prisoner and the Yanks gave him a tin of meat and sent him back again to give their regards to his Sergeant-Major and tell him that you couldn't hope to win the war on half rations! He came back all right, but he had liked it so much with the Yanks that next day he deserted!"

SOURCE: Infantry officer captured near MONTE POGGIO, Italy, 12 November 1944.

MORALE

"Our Air Force will come back again. It must. If nothing has happened, though, before May next year I shan't go on believing."

SOURCE: An Infantry Captain complains about the caliber of German replacements on the Italian Front, October 1944.

MORALE

"And what sort of reinforcements did we get? Nothing but old men. Out of 120 men in the 6th Company, 60 were over 25 years old. My last strength return to Battalion was 80. I was also there when the Battalion Commander phoned up the Regiment to report this figure. Afterwards he suddenly said, 'You want replacements? On the contrary, you have got to give men up! It doesn't matter if your companies have 20 or 100 men!'"

SOURCE: A German infantry officer captured at MONTE GRANDE, Italy, 21 October 1944.

MORALE

Prisoner: "Exactly two years ago we were starting to go downhill."

Interrogator: "And before that?"

Prisoner: "We were the 'Master Race'."

Interrogator: "Were?"

Prisoner: "Were, and are, and always will be. The military reverses are temporary, I promise you that. We are the power, the science, the will of the world. We laugh at your puny efforts, your weakness, your stupid soldiers."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Corporal, 305th Field Replacement Battalion,  
captured at CHIETI, Italy, 16 June 1944.

MORALE

"Well, now I can say what I really think. I often wonder why I carried on, but if I'd never spoken out, I'd have found myself in a concentration camp for the second time. I just had to hold my tongue. If some idiot escaped from here and got back to Germany, and told what he'd seen here, all our families would be in concentration camps."

SOURCE: German Air Force Corporal captured off ORAN  
July 1944.

MORALE

"Germany has no friends because the Nazi Party doesn't exist in any other country."

SOURCE: Twenty-five year old infantryman from KLAGEN-  
FURT, captured on 8th Army Front, 2 Nov. 44.

MORALE

"The whole damn lot of the officers that we had deserve to be shot. They are all ex-Hitler Youth men, the sort that stand well in the Party. And pretty well they did for themselves, too. Yes, what happened to us is that a band of robbers have turned themselves into a government. I suppose that the whole thing is quite unique in history. And just think of the nonsense that they used to talk, as though it were the voice of God. 'Every bomb that falls on German soil will be revenged ten-fold.' And all the people could answer was 'Heil!!' The damned fools!"

SOURCE: A 31-year old Technical Inspector from BERLIN  
captured in the invasion of Southern France,  
August 1944.

MORALE

"Last time it was the home front which didn't hold. This time it is holding and the fighting front is crumbling. While others were bleeding to death, some of the swine were dancing in MARSEILLES. France put a finish to these people from the point of view of morale. They had far too good a time there. Every officer who spent six months in France was nothing more than a depraved drunkard. They had become half French themselves."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry Sergeant-Major taken prisoner at  
FORLI, 8 November 1944.

MORALE

"Yes, the morale among the troops couldn't possibly be worse and it isn't surprising - we haven't got the officers. My mother wrote to me: 'It would be a good thing if you could meet Stefani and Franz out there' - they're prisoners, you see - and I wrote back: 'I shall do my utmost!' Only as a platoon commander it was all rather difficult for me."

".....I bet my Commanding Officer was one of the first to desert with his whole battalion. He used to say, 'My friends, at the first opportunity we are going over to the Allies.'"

".....Well, that was the reason that the Allies advanced so quickly in the south of France. Because our troops deserted to them in masses! If our troops only got the opportunity they are waiting for, they'd all come over together, except for a few fanatical Nazis - but perhaps they somehow lack courage or opportunity."

".....There is a certain lack of courage but there should also be a more intensive propaganda by the Allies to show them the advantages."

".....Most of them only hesitate because they are afraid of the treatment that might be waiting for them on the other side."

SOURCE: Elderly Infantry Private, captured south of  
FLORENCE, 3 August 1944.

MORALE

"How we shall be despised after the war. I experienced it in 1918 and can remember how they behaved when they came to Germany ten years later. They still respected the German soldier; he was a good and clean fighter and a democrat like themselves. But this time we have lost everything and we'll be hated by everybody. It'll be a disgrace to be a German. It won't matter whether you were a Socialist or a National Socialist so long as you wore a German uniform. The Americans may perhaps treat you well but not the British - they will always look on you as a Nazi swine. Yes, the whole of Europe hates us; just think of the French and the Russians! This time we'll have to pay a heavy penalty for what we've done."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Twenty-three year old Lieutenant in the German Navy captured at sea 27 August 1944.

MORALE

"We won the campaign against France, didn't we? That automatically gave us the right to occupy France....No, our trouble was that we were too stupid; we kept too scrupulously to the terms of the Armistice; we treated the French far too decently. All we did was to bring money into the country. And just think of the way the French are behaving now! They have beaten our men in the streets, spat on us and thrown stones at us... But I'm not so afraid of the British and Americans. If the war were only against them, I'd be the first to make peace. They're as fed up with the whole thing as we are."

SOURCE: A German Air Force Navigator, shot down near ANCONA, Italy, 9 August 1944.

MORALE

"I don't see what faults one can find in our leadership. Germany has become larger under Hitler than she ever was before. One can, with justice, compare Hitler with Napoleon.....Alas for the good old days! Africa, Poland, Norway and Russia.....I suppose that one can't avoid having a few neutral states left. But we could have got away with taking Switzerland and Sweden... I don't think that the Fuehrer himself ever had any evil intentions towards the populace of countries that we occupied. We should have treated them a lot more harshly. A few more kicks in the bottom would have done them a bit of good.....And yet, you know, I've seen our people actually helping British pilots out of crashed aircraft."

SOURCE: Private in an Armored Reconnaissance Battalion captured north of GAMBETTOLA, Italy, 16 Oct. 44.

MORALE

"You know, one of the rottenest tricks they played in the Party - if a chap for some reason or other had fallen from favor, he was sent into the front line. So they made what for some was an honorable duty towards their country and people into a punishment for others."

SOURCE: Lieutenant, 356th Artillery Regiment captured south of MONTE ACUTO, 8 August 1944.

MORALE

"Why was the new weapon called a 'retribution' weapon? It is all connected with our inner political system and brings the German people into false light. The German people aren't anxious for revenge, they don't want any retribution. The immediate reaction of the Allies is of course: 'The German people want revenge, do they? All right, we'll show them!'"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Thirty-seven year old Private in an anti-tank unit, formerly editor of the "Oberschlesischer Zeitung," captured near FORLI, Italy, 12 November 1944.

MORALE

"One understands so many things now that one didn't understand before or that one deliberately didn't want to understand. I always used to believe we should win, or wanted to believe it, but I stopped doing that some time ago. All their fine promises are nothing but a mockery now. First they say that the enemy will never be able to set foot in Europe, then they say the enemy will never cross the German frontier. And then all their talk about the V-weapons! As for the forming of the Volkssturm, I consider that nothing less than a crime. It just shows that things have got too much for them.

"They've started building fortifications in Germany now with women and children and old men, and they are the people who are supposed to defend these positions later on! If that's the way to wage war, then I really don't know. They've built fortifications now from Upper SILESIA to FRANKFURT on the Oder, and I've been told they're digging trenches all the way to BERLIN. It's quite true that a lot can be done in Germany by appealing to the people's sense of heroism but that sort of thing is sheer madness. Any group is always judged by the worst elements in it. And then look at the Volkssturm - that's supposed to be the German Army! And all that because our honorable party members would like to hold on to their jobs a few days longer.

"I've definitely come to the conclusion now that there's nothing more we can do. Of course I always tried to talk about things as little as possible and I've always done my duty. It did you no good otherwise and you only ended up in the concentration camp. I'm glad I was in the army, too. I've been a member of the Party since 1939 and can tell you that if I hadn't become a member, I should have been completely ruined. You see, I was given the sack in 1933 because it was said that I was always careful to work on approved Party lines.

"I know a lot of journalists who used to run down the Party but once they were up before the Gauleiter, they soon piped down and did everything they were told to do. My attitude towards the Party was the only possible one to adopt, and I'm not ashamed of it. If individual cases cropped up where I could lend a helping hand I always did so, and I never kicked anyone off the staff of the newspaper although I didn't lack the courage to do it. And I never took advantage of my good position in the Party. If I had rows I had them with my superiors and not with people working under me. One thing the Party did I must say I agreed with, and that was its attitude to the Jews. I think that the elimination of the Jews from our economic life is absolutely justified."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner who managed the Receiving and Shipping Department and the motor pool of the Deutsche Lufthansa main workshop.

FUEL

From prisoner's account, it appears that control of private motor transport has been pushed to a point beyond which regulation actually decreases efficiency. If the Berlin area is a fair example, conversion of private transport to gas generator was practically complete by August 1944. To insure maximum efficiency the Government set up a hierarchy of agencies: a local traffic authority was placed in control of all private transport, eventually including even horse-drawn vehicles. In 1942 the authorities placed at Lufthansa's disposal an Opel truck about 20-25 years old and allotted 180-200 litres a month for its operation. The allotment was reduced, first to 100-150 litres and then, early in 1943 to 50-100 litres. In the spring of 1943 no fuel was supplied for this vehicle. It was left with the Lufthansa to be operated at the firm's discretion on fuel diverted from the allotment for company-owned transport. By the end of the year, the Lufthansa could spare only ten litres a week, and six months later, no fuel at all was available for the Opel.

SOURCE: A German Brigadier General, September 1944.

FUEL

"Our division had enough petrol. Every column had enough for 300 kilometers (187.5 miles). But American air-borne troops landed between and right beside the fuel dumps and most of them were blown up."

SOURCE: Interrogation of German Group Commander and other officers.

FUEL

Prisoners of war attributed their forced landing in enemy territory (while escaping Greece) to the fact that they were not permitted to carry full fuel tanks. Since the capture of PLOESTI, the fuel shortage is making itself more and more apparent. Less important airfields are being disbanded on account of lack of fuel and fuel transport difficulties, and for that reason III Gruppe, Transport-geschwader 2, were forced to leave VUKOVAR, in Yugoslavia.

Further the officer said that tanking frequently produces hard feeling between the aircrews and tank-truck crews, as only the minimum of fuel for the flight, with a slight reserve for emergencies, may be carried. The JU-52 uses approximately 400 liters per hour. For a 3-hour flight not more than 1400 liters would be carried. On the last flight of the "T8 + PR", 1800 liters were carried for a supposed 3-hour flight (the Gruppenkommander, Major Budeck, was flying himself!) and even they were forced down for lack of fuel.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Letter from BORKLE (near Canabrück, Germany), dated 10 December 1944, to German Private captured on Fifth Army Front, March 1945.

MORALE

"At eight o'clock the last Mass is over because of the continuous air raids. 'Tommy' is very prompt. At about nine o'clock he begins his work. The dive bombers are often like mad! Last Tuesday they demolished the railroad station. . . . . But man is a creature of habit and one soon gets used to things. Only the nerves finally go to pieces. Everyone runs for the bomb shelters. . . . . The war must come to an end or we can look forward to a very bad spring.

"Eight days ago they received a letter from S----- from Russia. How could that have come through? We surmise that since he is a printer he is probably employed in printing leaflets. He could have put the letter among them. It is postmarked LEBESDIN. He writes not to worry; for him the war is over. . . . . He is sorry for his comrades who have to continue the war."

SOURCE: Letter from GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany, dated 13 January 1945, to German Private captured at Fifth Army Front February 1945.

MORALE

"You have probable heard on the radio of a heavy terror attack on GELSENKIRCHEN on 6 November 1944. Up to this time we have not been hurt except for broken windows. Now there are boards there on which 'Tommy' can bite his teeth out. GELSENKIRCHEN is two-thirds ruined. No railroad or street cars. . . . . The whole city was a sea of flames. . . . . The factories are being rebuilt even if it takes years!"

SOURCE: German Second Lieutenant captured near FIOLO, Italy, 17 December 1944.

MORALE

"Logically speaking the war is over for us. We base all our hopes on the new weapons, and if it turns out that there aren't any, - well, then everything is lost. And if it's really true that they have to get people of 67 years old to work in East Prussia now, well, that isn't a very promising sign, either! I don't see how we can still win the war. I never wanted to believe that we would lose France in the space of a few short weeks, and I must admit I completely pinned my faith on the Atlantic Wall..."

"Of course you Americans can afford to wait. What's the good of our inventing bombsights if we have no bombs and no bombers! If we shoot down forty of your planes, you build another eighty in their place. You always remain in a position of superiority. Our men are very quick to surrender these days. I lost seventeen men that way in my company alone! They wait for your tanks to come, let them go past them and then, up with their hands!"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Second Lieutenant in the SS captured at ALFONSINE, 4 January 1945.

MORALE

"I was sixteen years old when the war broke out, and up to now I can't say that I've had much of a time. But what disgusts me is to see how many people there are sitting behind the lines in comparison to the number that there are forward on the front. The best thing that the soldier on the front can do for himself is to get to a hospital for two or three weeks. You've only got to have a temperature to do so, and you can wangle yourself a temperature by smoking a cigarette, the tobacco of which is mixed with butter."

SOURCE: Austrian Private, truck driver, captured in Southern France, 30 August 1944.

MORALE

"I experienced an attack by Allied fighter-bombers on a convoy near LORIOL on 25 August 1944. We were machine-gunned by five or more fighters who made several attacks. There was much damage to traffic. The drivers were frightened but after ten minutes they were back on the job. We feared fighter-bombers most when they machine-gunned us because of their accuracy."

SOURCE: Austrian Private, infantryman formerly in Coast Defense, deserted at FLORENCE, 4 January 1945.

MORALE

"I was observer at an installation of machine gun nests on the SESTRI-LEVANTE sector. We were attacked by 24 B-25's, which destroyed our position and the iron works. Eight of our men were killed and 29 wounded. It was a wonderful attack. The coast defense troops were very anti-Nazi and always happy to see Allied planes making an attack."

"At SPEZIA I experienced an attack by dive-bombers on our heavy artillery position. When the attack began we scattered to cover. Some bombs dropped into our emplacements but the ammunition did not blow up. Two men were wounded. We were but little affected by this attack and our battery was not moved. We did not find that dummy positions were of any value in diverting attacks."

SOURCE: German Corporal, truck driver, who deserted August 1944 at TERNI.

MORALE

"Machine gun fire from a plane is more destructive of morale than bombing. Attack from the rear of a column is feared most as many drivers have been killed without even knowing that they were under attack."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Czech Private, infantryman, captured at HISTOLA  
10 September 1944.

MORALE

"There is no comparison between the fear of a fighter-bomber attack and a high altitude bombing attack. A man is finished for a whole day after a fighter-bomber attack."

SOURCE: German Private deserted 12 February 1945 at VERGATO.

MORALE

"I served in a flak position with about 40 Germans and 75 Italians. We were attacked by three waves of four-engine bombers. The German personnel stayed at their posts but the Italians fled. We were not nearly as frightened by an attack of fighter-bombers because we had adequate protection against gun fire."

SOURCE: German Corporal deserted 5 November 1944 at Fifth Army Front.

MORALE

"On the front at BOLOGNA I experienced an attack by fighter-bombers followed up by artillery. We were less afraid of the artillery because we could dig in for protection. Fighter-bombers shot right into our fox-holes."

SOURCE: Austrian Private, infantryman, deserted at CITTA DI CASTELLO, July 1944.

MORALE

"In Italy we found attacks by fighter-bombers very demoralizing. Whenever a fighter-bomber appeared on a highway or at the front there was instant confusion. Artillery fire was not much feared.

"During raids on HAMBURG, which I experienced, phosphorus bombs were most demoralizing on the civilian population."

SOURCE: German Private captured on the Fifth Army Front, 12 February 1945.

MORALE

"In our place at home there are people in the Volkssturm who can't walk. And people who're crippled with rheumatism. In Germany today there are no more law-courts, no lawyers, no advocates; now everything goes straight to the Kreisleiter. The life of anyone who isn't in the Party isn't worth living."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Lieutenant captured on the Fifth Army Front,  
20 February 1945

MORALE

"If there is such a thing as existence in spirit and will alone, without body or matter, that is the life of the German cities. Only their sentimental appeal still holds them together. Cologne has been evacuated time and time again, but the inhabitants still manage to drift back to the heaps of rubble simply because they once bore the name of 'home'. Past associations are so much more powerful than the necessities of war that the evacuees resent leaving and rush back again long before the danger is over.

"The only thing that keeps Germany going is the fear of Bolshevism. Year after year, as the war dragged on, the war in the East has become progressively more and more savage and inhuman. Unspeakable atrocities have been committed by both sides. Germany knows what she has done in Russia, and she realizes that the revenge will be nothing less than complete and utter destruction.

"When I think of what the war has cost me and my generation I am appalled! Germany's loss is irreparable; she can never replace the millions of young men who have lost their lives and the millions more who still live but have lost life. The best years of my life have been thrown away - six precious years in which I should have achieved my Doctor's Degree in Chemistry, married, and begun raising my family, and contributed something to my age and country! In the things that really matter I am much poorer now than I was six years ago. All that I can hope for now is that as a prisoner of war I shall have a little time to read, to study, and to catch up on what I have lost."

SOURCE: German Corporal captured near BAGNACAVALLLO, Italy,  
18 December 1944.

MORALE

"What's the point of all these sacrifices? We can't hope to hold you in any case; we haven't the equipment! None of our guns are allowed to fire more than a prescribed number of rounds. We have to pinch and scrape everywhere. And your bombs just rain down on us until nothing within range is left standing. You English and Americans should find some way of disposing of all our officers. They're the only ones still holding the Army together. They should all be put up against a wall and shot. The only ones who wanted to put an end to the war were killed after the attempt on Hitler's life. I always thought that an attempt on Hitler's life would be our last chance. When I heard that it had failed, I knew that God had turned his back on the German people."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Private captured at HUFLINGEN, Germany,  
17 January 1945.

MORALE

"The Morale of the workers at this boiler plant was very low. The majority were not party members and a great many forbidden subjects were discussed, such as foreign radio broadcasts. There was a great amount of grumbling and complaining about conditions as most of the workers were sure Germany had lost the war."

SOURCE: Letters from NIEDER-RODEN, Germany dated 6, 25,  
31 January 1945, to German Corporal captured  
at Fifth Army Front, February 1945.

MORALE

(Ltr 6 Jan 45) "... We have to put up with more of the damned flyers. . . . If only this terror would come to an end. We'll all go to pieces if it doesn't stop soon. . . . I have not received the package from the army, of which you write and I'll burn somebody about it today. I could use something like that as we are short of bread flour, and fat, but we must still be content and if we have no bread we'll eat potatoes in their jackets. . . . Tomorrow I'll write again. You can believe me that with all the alarms and work I don't get much time to write."

(Ltr 25 Jan 45) "... Now it looks bad in the East. The Russians are coming in and if they get the upper hand, we'll never see each other again. . . . Wood is so green we have to put it in the oven for two weeks first. We sit in the cold and if we complain we are told to go to bed. It was so nice before the war. Why did such a misfortune have to come to us? . . . I hope the pictures are not removed again. You poor soldiers get such pleasures of pictures from home and then they are stolen. . . . It is so cold and damp that when one goes to bed at night it's like lying down on a damp cloth, and that makes us sick. I ought to heat the bedroom every day, but I hardly have fuel for the kitchen. . . . Now we'll have to wait even longer for letters since all express trains stopped."

(Ltr 31 Jan 45) "... I hope you are well, which I can say for us, aside from the terrible times up here in the snow. . . . A soldier told me how refugees were freezing to death on the running boards and children with nothing to eat, screaming. The enemy is coming from the East and that is the worst that could happen to us. Everyone does me favors, especially Mrs. V-----, who brought me some sausage soup all the way from MUNSTER. One is grateful for anything these days, especially something to eat. . . . Yesterday dive bombers were here again. . . . Luise has to stand all day at work and it is colder than on the street. The girls freeze their fingers till they bleed."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Corporal captured near BAGNA CAVALLO,  
14 December 1944.

MORALE

"There were hundreds of soldiers running around in COLOGNE in civilian clothes after the big air attacks, and a great many of them committed suicide. They came home and saw that their families had been killed so they just lay down beside them and put a bullet through their heads. Others just fixed themselves up with civilian clothes and never went back to their units. They were usually listed as missing or killed because it was thought that they had also been killed in an air attack. These men would later report somewhere to get new papers and stay quietly at home because, for them, there was nothing left to fight for."

SOURCE: German sergeant captured on the Fifth Army Front,  
February 1945.

MORALE

"What's the use of fighting when you have nothing to shoot with? Allied air attacks have cut down our supply of munitions so drastically that we have to count every shot we fire."

"Without shells to fire you can't very well persuade your gun crew to hold on to their position and be blown off the map for no reason at all. Say, for example, that the Allies can plaster your area with 1000 shots a day, and you have only 5 shells to shoot back at them. Can even the most fanatical Nazi hope to win under such conditions? 'Very Well,' say the young zealots, 'They may miss us with their 1000 shells, but our 5 shots will tell.' What utter nonsense!"

SOURCE: German Corporal (from COLOGNE) captured at  
BAGNA CAVALLO, 14 December 1944.

MORALE

"You ask any soldier at the front whether he still thinks we'll win the war. They all hope it will be over soon and only think 'the sooner the better'. No one's believed that we can win for quite a long time now. They want it to finish before the civilian population has to suffer any more hardships because of air attacks. I spoke to several men and they all agreed that they didn't care a damn under what sort of government they worked. They've all become completely indifferent."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German SS Captain, captured near BOLOGNA, 12 October 1944.

MORALE

"I took an oath to our flag and if today any of us are committing murders anywhere, I'll be held responsible. Fifty R.A.F. officers were shot by our people. Who's responsible? All of us! So the English are quite within their rights in shooting us, too. We don't fight now; we slaughter our prisoners! I keep hoping there haven't been any murders in Poland lately. If there haven't been, the fate of the German people won't be quite so hard. But if there have been, then millions of our people will lose their lives in reprisals."

SOURCE: German Sergeant-Major captured at ALPONSINE, 4 January 1945.

MORALE

"Now we're in for it. Oh, God! They took me back by the main route and let me tell you, what I saw made me want to tear my hair. The number of gasoline tanks! And the supplies (Allied) traffic coming up! It certainly looks bad for us. Very, very bad indeed. One would have to get something entirely new, some epoch-making weapon. But all our industries have been smashed too. And the Air Force has packed up entirely. I can't say I have much faith left."

SOURCE: German Corporal captured near FAENZA, 7 December 1944

MORALE

(Prisoner of war imitating a Goebbels speech.)

"My Fuehrer! You promised to change Germany so much in four years that no one would be able to recognize it. And you achieved it! My Fuehrer! You promised the German worker two things: sun and light. And you've fulfilled your promise! He's been bombed out and so he gets as much of both as he wants! Sieg Heil!"

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured near FAENZA, 23 December 1944

MORALE

"One can't avoid cursing Hitler; or, if not him, Himmler or one of those others. What a state Germany is in! These continual bombing attacks - the food continually growing worse - surrounded on three sides. Just think of the number of casualties we must have had in these mass air attacks!"

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: The Lieutenant Colonel in charge of the defense of the Monastery at CASSINO captured May 1944.

MORALE

"I can tell you that I'm glad to be out of it, and in an honorable way, which doesn't discredit me as a soldier. I'd had enough of it a long time ago. The very thought of my responsibilities at CASSINO is enough to turn my hair grey. I'd rather shoot myself than do anything like that again.. Sooner or later I shall appear before an American courts martial to answer for my share in the business, on account of what happened to the monastery alone. Well, I was only doing my duty as a soldier, fighting for my country. I was ordered by HELLMANN to hold the monastery. I shouldn't like to stand together with him in the dock. But I shan't try to defend myself; I know that you won't punish me, for I'm a soldier and an officer. I'm certainly not afraid. And then there will be all sorts of books and documents written about it; why, I shall become quite a famous man!"

SOURCE: Austrian Corporal, Schmitz Assault Gun Brigade, taken prisoner south of FLORENCE, 4 August 1944.

MORALE

"We had good times under Dollfuss; yes, those were the days. And then came the Nazis. 'This is the end of your Austrian Gemuetlichkeit,' they shouted. They called us swine, told us that they would soon make us learn the Prussian way of life. They could talk of nothing but Greater Germany and anyone with different ideas was shot. They were pitiless. In my unit they threatened us the whole day long with shooting or court-martial. When we were at the Beachhead, our Captain had six Austrians shot because they were suspected of planning to desert. I can't understand how any man can live the way that these Prussians do, cursing and swearing the whole day long. Look at the Americans: since I've been a prisoner I've never heard one of them raise his voice but they manage to get things done."

SOURCE: German Colonel captured at St GABRIEL, France, 24 June 1944

MORALE

Pattern bombing by medium and heavy bombers upon troops in concrete shelters had no appreciable effect on their morale even if continued for long periods. Casualties in his own experience were extraordinarily slight, even under heavy bombing attacks, and personnel soon became accustomed to "sitting tight" in their shelters until the racket was over.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Major General captured near MONS, Belgium, 4 September 1944.

MORALE

"They (the German people) are all completely cowed. I was commandant of HAMBURG up till a year ago. I can only say there is such a reign of terror and such utter fear in the hearts of the people there that we are living in freedom here compared with it. Denunciation and informing are rife, fostered in masterly fashions by the rewards that are offered; everyone betrays everyone else, and the meanest acts are being committed now at a time when right-thinking people ought to stick together. With that hanging over him, nobody will risk doing anything which bears the least resemblance to what you and I would consider the sensible thing to do."

SOURCE: Austrian Prisoner of War captured by Indian negro troops 14 October 1944, near SESSATELLE.

MORALE

The few Austrians in the prisoner's unit were not popular with the Germans, and the Germans had the impudence to blame the Austrians for the war. When asked why, they received the answer: "Hitler is an Austrian, isn't he. and you let him come to our country!"

SOURCE: German General captured near ARRAS, France, 1 September 1944.

MORALE

"If we had won the war in 1941 it would have gone to our heads. But we shan't disappear from the map of the world for, after all, we are the salt of Europe."

SOURCE: German Lieutenant, captured near MONTE FORINO, 21 November 1944.

MORALE

"The only thing that can save us now is the Air Force. I don't believe in sitting up any defensive positions or pill boxes in our towns: they can hold up the Allies and inflict casualties on them, but it's all up for us; I haven't any illusions about it. Germany is being systematically bombarded and if we do rebuild anything it is only knocked down again the following day. I have a cousin who worked in a chemical factory till it was destroyed. He slaved for two weeks carting stones about till the place had been rebuilt and three hours later it was all knocked down again."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German aviation expert who had traveled widely in Germany, gave himself up to Allied Forces January 1945.

MORALE

GERMAN CIVILIANS: "You Americans and British are not yet awake to the fundamentals of German thought. You are too friendly and kind-hearted. You judge everybody by your own yardstick. You are being too kind. My home was in RICHSENRICH. Everybody in my town was tired of the war and prayed for the Americans to come and deliver them from it all. My countrymen are all to blame for the war. They will tell you with tears in their eyes that they just had to obey their leaders. Don't be taken in by this attitude and don't let your Army of Occupation be taken in either.

WORLD WAR I: "I can still remember the last occupation. In our area we had a Belgian Force who instituted curfew hours and justly made us feel that the consequences of a war are bitter. Away in COLOGNE, however, under British occupation, life continued almost better than before 1914 with no curfew and few or no restrictions. We used to speak of COLOGNE as 'paradise'.

WORLD WAR II: "The Americans occupied our town and were kindness personified. The children were given sweets and we civilians were not molested. What was the effect on my townsmen? First they smiled, delighted that their inner fears had been unfounded and then, after that, among themselves, they laughed. That is a fact. They laughed at this unexpected friendliness. They took it as a sign of weakness and degeneracy and began to look for excuses for their defeat at the hand of these 'soft' Americans. My townsmen, to excuse their defeat, try to belittle the Americans. They laugh among themselves at anything they can possibly rake up. For instance, if an American sentry shows he cannot read easily by examining a pass for too long a time, they mimic him among themselves. They invent tales as to how American soldiers scuttled for cover when a German VI came over. These are all indications that they are not repentant of the wrongs perpetrated on Europe by their army and system, nor grateful for the humane treatment meted out to them by a democratic army. You Allies will pay heavily for this if you don't alter your outlook. You must have done with this fraternization. Carry out General Eisenhower's words, 'stern but just', or you will have another nasty mess on your hands in twenty or so years' time.

GERMAN P/W'S: "After I delivered myself up to the Americans, I saw the mistakes they were committing in being too humane. For example, there was among the German prisoners of war taken by the Americans, a man from the neighborhood whose wife was expecting a baby. The American authorities let him visit her daily from the P/W cage, simply on his word of honor to return by nightfall. That may be humane but it is not military and would, I am sure, only be laughed at by my countrymen."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Letter to German Private from relative in BAREMBACH, Alsace, dated 18 November 1944.

MORALE.

"It is only on a rainy day that I can write you. During clear weather it is impossible to sit down at all: every five minutes one is running to the air raid shelter or to the cellar. What the planes are doing now is harrowing. Last week they dropped ten bombs on SCHIRMLACK, and a number of people were killed and wounded. Saturday morning they attacked a train near the sawmill and you never heard such machine-gun fire. All over BAREMBACH there was flak and everytime the planes came by the guns fired. Friday morning nine bombs fell near us. For the second time we have no window panes. I swear to you, ---- that I am worn out. I am tired of everything, even of living. In the fields near us there are two AA guns. Yesterday morning they dropped four bombs on BAREMBACH. Two fell in the fields, one in the middle of the highway, and the other on a house. Two buildings were burned to the ground. Besides all this, the cannons never cease firing and in the night you can see the flashes of the big guns. If this keeps up, the Allies will be here in eight days."

SOURCE: German Private captured on the Fifth Army Front, Italy, January 1945.

MORALE

"In the long run your bombings may be good for Germany. They have given her a taste, bitter though it be, of what war is really like. She would think twice before she starts another war in twenty years."

SOURCE: German Corporal captured on the Fifth Army Front, February 1945.

MORALE

"The Army does all the fighting and sweating but the SS gets the laurels. In the illustrated magazines at home the only soldiers' faces you see are pictures of SS heroes who paraded down the streets of town we had fought for inch by inch."

"All the soldiers are bitter about this discrimination. If Germany wins the war, the SS will have won it; if she loses, the Wehrmacht will get the blame."

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured on the Fifth Army Front, January 1945.

MORALE

"It is useless to try to fight any longer: the morale among the men is so bad. During the past three months at least 80% of my platoon deserted to the enemy."



IOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured on the Fifth Army Front, February 1945.

MORALE

"Germany is through. There is hardly a house in which someone doesn't wear mourning. And with the constant air attacks and the rapid advances on the Eastern and Western Fronts, no one in Germany knows where he will be next week.

"In spite of everything the people still believe all that the Fuehrer says. Hitler leads the people around like a bull with a ring in its nose. Though sick of war, they still live on promises of V-weapons, victory and revenge. They could put an end to the whole business tomorrow if they only knew it but they don't. The people are like a great clumsy circus elephant that puts up with all sorts of petty tyranny from its keepers because it doesn't know its own strength.

"But in Germany it is almost impossible for anyone, however independent, to have free thoughts. Every paper has exactly the same thing in it as the next."

SOURCE: German Corporal, previously a GAF pilot trainee, captured at FUSCOLI, Italy, 1 January 1945.

MORALE

(In answer to the question about morale of troops) "As long as the soldier gets his grub and is properly looked after, he doesn't think or worry about much else. And this recent German offensive (on the Western Front) has raised morale considerably. But in spite of all that, some of them have their doubts. Sometimes I don't know why they still go on fighting now that Himmler has taken over and wants to fight on till the whole nation is blead to death."

SOURCE: SS Sergeant-Major captured at ALFONSINE, 4 January 1945.

MORALE

"Most of our SS leaders were mere tradesmen, and now they're divisional commanders! And why? Because they squandered the lives of goodness knows how many men. . . For that they get a 'Knight's Cross' handed to them on a platter. If the war's lost, we've had it. And even if we win it, it'll be almost as bad. Then all these SS leaders of ours will have more to say for themselves than ever."

SOURCE: German Private deserted to Partisans on the Fifth Army Front 15 December 1944.

MORALE

"At Cassino we recovered from the effects of air attacks in three or four hours but were very much afraid of artillery fire."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Austrian Private captured on the Fifth Army Front,  
28 February 1945.

MORALE

"Ration cards we have aplenty, but what is the use? There is nothing to buy! As the war drags on, food is becoming scarcer and scarcer. Poor families who have no connections whatsoever are gradually starving. Most people eat only at the restaurants because the grocery stores are impty. The restaurants of course are bad enough; the only meats you can get are in sausage and goulash. The population practically lives in the movie palaces. Everybody goes daily to the films because it means two hours escape from the war. The Nazis are more unpopular than ever before. If a member appears on the streets with his insignia, he is immediately made conspicuous. People point at him with their thumbs and everybody stares."

SOURCE: Austrian Private captured on the Fifth Army Front,  
25 February 1945.

MORALE

"Most of the inhabitants of the region north of STYR, Austria, were pro-Nazi. But when the Germans began to disperse industries from STYR to these small towns, strong protests were registered by the people against removal of factories to their area. They had no desire to become the center of allied bombing targets."

SOURCE: Austrian Private captured on the Fifth Army Front,  
1 February 1945.

MORALE

"There are more Nazi fanatics here in this prison camp than in my own unit. In my company soldiers were sick of the fighting. When the war was discussed, someone would invariably remark: 'Our next landing will be on America!' The standard parting greeting was 'See you in Canada as Capt. Chooper.'"

SOURCE: German Corporal captured near ROCCA PELAGO, Italy,  
20 February 1945.

MORALE

"I often used to brood on the sort of thoughts that must go through the heads of our ordinary private soldiers at the front. It's really pitiful. They just have to go through all that without ever saying anything. . . . and they can't desert either."

"It's too dangerous. But that's another thing. When we get home again one day, our people will blame us for having gone on fighting for so long; they'll want to know why we didn't all desert long ago. If they only knew in what awful danger they themselves would continually be if it were found out that we'd deserted!"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured near BOLOGNA, 10 February 1944

MORALE

"Germany could never have continued the war this long if she had not constantly applied pressure on her troops. As Sergeant I had the strictest orders to keep an eye on my men at all times to prevent any attempted desertion. Three weeks ago, during my absence a whole group of six or eight men went to the enemy. The next day a new company order was read aloud, establishing the following new regulations:

'1. All leaders are hereby made responsible for troops who desert their ranks.

'2. From this hour on, no double guards of German or mixed blood are to be posted together. In any double guard in the future there will always be one German of true German blood.'

"Actually it is only the young fanatical party sergeants who keep the men from going over to the enemy in droves. Everyone is hoping that we will be pushed back to the Brenner so that we can desert to our homes. We Germans suffer from an incurable disease of which death is the only solution. Not one Allied nation will consult or deal with Adolf Hitler. Everyone of consequence is out of the way, in concentration camps, in exile, or in the army. Only after Germany's total collapse will Germans feel free to work for a new and free Germany."

SOURCE: German private deserted to Partisans at VERGATO 29 May 1944.

MORALE

"On 25 May 1944 I was driving in a convoy of 38 vehicles at ATRINA. We were attacked for a period of two hours by 12 fighter-bombers using phosphorus bombs. All the vehicles were destroyed by fire.

"On the retreat from ROME I saw the lasting effect of fighter-bomber attacks on convoy drivers. They were jittery and easily fatigued and many were unable to drive for more than an hour at a stretch. Even now, in the safety of a prisoner of war camp I feel uneasy whenever there is a plane overhead. A fighter-bomber attack is something you never forget. Phosphorus bombs are more to be feared than fragmentation bombs because of the difficulty of controlling the many points of fire. Against infantry they are a good 'smoking-out' medium and the most destructive thing I know against a convoy of vehicles."

SOURCE: German Corporal, radio operator, captured 2 October 1944 at MONTEBRENZIO.

MORALE

"An artillery attack is worse on morale because of the feeling of being pinned down and helpless. A fighter-bomber attack is over and forgotten in a short time."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Letter from NURNBERG, dated 5 February 1945, to German Private, captured on the Fifth Army Front, 3 March 1945.

MORALE

"Refugees from the East, Silesia, etc., have swarmed to the NURNBERG area. In one train 80 children arrived frozen to death. Some were still sitting in their mothers' laps. Others were lying in open trucks. Many women were driven insane by the ghastly experience. Will all this misery never come to an end?

"Everyone is crying that only death and slaughter are awaiting most of us."

SOURCE: Letter from BERLIN, dated 5 February, to German Sergeant, captured on the Fifth Army Front 3 March 1945.

MORALE

"Saturday we suffered a furious air attack here. If it had lasted much longer, I would have been driven crazy. A house close by was completely wiped out, and the family in the cellar was buried alive under the ruins. I turned white when the bomb hit. All day and night I have been helping at digging dead and wounded out of the BAYERISCHER PLATZ railroad station."

SOURCE: German Second Lieutenant captured at M BELVEDERE, Italy, 19 February 1945.

MORALE

"The Allies certainly made a thorough job of our unit. That artillery barrage of theirs! God! They played with us like a cat with a mouse. As far as I can see, the war's over."

"Take my unit as an example. I was on the run from morning to night from one position to the other. And I heard the same story wherever I went: 'Herr Leutnant, we've had enough.'"

"One of our company commanders was in the hospital and the other had been taken prisoner. So had the adjutant. And conditions were terrible; none of us ever got a chance to sleep. The strength of a company was about seventy men. And the various sections were so far apart that it was impossible to keep control over them. We thought of everything - laid mines everywhere, strengthened our positions, - but the Allies broke through all the same. We're short of everything: men as well as equipment. In Russia the enemy was superior in manpower, but here in Italy your superiority in equipment is too fantastic."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Second Lieutenant captured at M. STAFONE, Italy, 20 February 1945.

MORALE

"The longer the war lasts, the longer those gentlemen in BERLIN will stay alive. They and the Gauleiter - they all alike. I shouldn't like to see the millions of men the stupid German nation has sacrificed in this war. It's bad enough to make one sick. Think what all these millions of young people might have done. I was definitely not against National Socialism but since they started this Volkssturm, I've had enough. Those aren't soldiers - they're old men and shouldn't have weapons thrust into their hands. They'll start arming the women soon. The right moment for destroying the Allies has passed. But perhaps they did it on purpose.

"This war has cost millions of lives and those idiots down there at the hospital are still running around shouting 'Heil Hitler'. Really, I have to laugh. Improvising, perpetual improvising. The whole thing was nothing but bluff and now the end is coming."

SOURCE: German Corporal captured near FAENZA, Italy, 16 December 1944.

MORALE

"Two of my soldiers wanted to desert. And what do they do, the fools? When they got to No-Man's land they saw some soldiers, thought they were Americans, and went forward to meet them with a white handkerchief - and it was a patrol of ours that was coming back to the lines! They arrested them; there was an NCO with the patrol. What was there I could do? I had to write a report and the two men were sentenced to death and the sentence duly carried out. So now two families must starve!"

SOURCE: Letter from BORKEN (near Canabru<sup>ck</sup>, Germany), dated 29 November, to writer's sister in BEIM (same area); taken from German Private at Fifth Army Front March 1945.

MORALE

"If I don't exert myself too much I am pretty well, but the worst for me is the excitement which certain people are stirring up. We don't understand why they can't come to their senses in these awful times. . . . The memorial chapel can hardly accommodate the crosses any more, and how many more are there to come? . . . An indescribable misery. For several weeks now we have a pick-up point in front of the house where the police stop cars going by and make them pick up the people who are standing there. . . . That is our 'cultivated Germany'. . . ."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Air Force Sergeant, an anti-Nazi who served as Clerk at Headquarters of Luftflotte 3 and later at Headquarters of the German Air Force.

FUEL

Early in 1943 Hitler began to complain that the German Air Force was carrying out very few operations on the Russian front, and he was told that shortage of fuel was the reason. In the same month a conference was held at BERGHTESGADEN and Prisoner of War understood that Keitel produced a statement showing that German fuel production from all sources for the year ending June 1944 amounted to only one-seventh of that of the previous year. Conferences at BERGHTESGADEN on the fuel situation lasted an entire week and prisoner of war was told that Hitler was very upset during the whole of this period. Supplies were allocated to the German Air Force on a strict rationing basis; all but the most essential aircraft courier flights were immediately stopped and training was drastically reduced. In addition, Keitel demanded, above all, increased flak and fighter protection for the synthetic petrol plants.

SOURCE: Airmen of Croat Legion of the G.A.F. captured 28 February 1944.

FUEL

Both at SCHAULEN and KALBROG, replacement training and blind flying schools respectively, flying was regularly interrupted owing to a lack of gasoline. Gasoline was brought in railroad tank trucks about once a fortnight and nearly always the schools' gasoline was exhausted two or three days before a new supply during which all flying stopped.

SOURCE: Hungarian Leaders of the resistance movement who fled Hungary 9 December 1944, seeking to establish relations with Allied military leaders.

FUEL

A recent order from Goering states that there shall be no long range bombing missions performed on the Hungarian front, and that all fields shall be located as closely as possible to the front line to preserve gasoline

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War captured 18 October 1944 at PAROS, Greece.

FUEL

"I wonder where they'll get the petrol from now that we've lost Rumania. In Greece it was the order to get every drop of petrol back at all costs. In the last few months it was awful there with the petrol problem. We only had this Ersatz stuff - it was 95% alcohol - and one couldn't start up with it. You can only start an engine on real petrol."

SOURCE: German Document - Orders for Conservation of Motor Fuel by the Wehrmacht.

FUEL

Motor fuel is an instrument of command. Higher and lower commands must give the greatest attention to the motor fuel problem and, in view of the seriousness of the motor fuel situation, order all necessary steps for saving it. That any failure to carry out this order is of decisive importance for the war and that disobedience is sabotage must be known to every soldier. Whoever uses gasoline for journeys other than those directly aiding the prosecution of the war, is committing sabotage and will be subject to severe military discipline.

On the trip permit the purpose and military importance of the journey must be clearly set forth and it must be shown that the trip cannot be made by railway or other vehicles or means of transportation. The officer who signs the trip permit assumes the responsibility for the importance of the vehicle's trip.

(a) Departure from the Divisional area with a car is subject to consent of the Divisional Commander.

(b) Departure from the Corps area with a car is subject to consent of the Commanding General.

(c) Departure from the Army area with a car is subject to consent of the Army Commander.

(d) Departure from an Army Group area with a car is subject to consent of the Commander of the Army Group.

(e) Departure from the areas of otherwise organized staffs and service headquarters, which are not subject to the commands included under (a) to (d) is subject to the consent of a commanding officer equivalent in rank to at least a Divisional Commander.

One condition is full utilization of all space. When this is not the case, the reason for the exceptionally small loading of the car must be stated in due order on the trip ticket.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Document - Orders for Conservation of Motor Fuel by the Wehrmacht. (cont'd)

FUEL

It must be the fundamental principle that on all journeys, the smallest vehicle and that which consumes the least fuel must be employed.

For transportation, the Army may also use horses, bicycles, and its own feet.

Endorsement to the above order:

I have ordered the strictest checks and in the future in the case of journeys of unmilitary necessity, I shall

(a) Have the vehicle seized.

(b) Have its occupants immediately assigned to an infantry unit for transfer to the Vosges Front.

GEN. BALK.

SOURCE: Czech truck driver captured near BOLOGNA November 1944.

FUEL

"Just lately we had to put up with masses of difficulties; for instance, we were given gasoline that was one-third water. You can imagine the difficulties. . ."

SOURCE: Hungarian leaders of the resistance movement who fled Hungary 9 December 1944, seeking to establish relations with Allied military leaders.

FUEL

Owing to the attentions paid by fighter-bombers to the VIENNA-BUDAPEST railway line and to the shortage of railway tankers, the greater part of liquid fuel, petrol, oil, etc., is now being transported by road as the road tankers have been far less likely to be attacked especially on secondary roads.

SOURCE: Infantry Sergeant captured at BORETTO, Italy in November 1944.

FUEL

"Near ORVIETO in June 1944 I saw a train with 56 oil cars blown up by Allied planes."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Commander of an SS armored division taken prisoner near LIEZE, 7 September 1944.

FUEL

"We had plenty of fuel in the West. The decisive factor there was not a lack of material but a lack of means to bring it to the front. Your Air Force - not the bombers, but the fighters - prevented this material from reaching the front."

SOURCE: Paratrooper taken prisoner near CESENA, Italy, 17 October 1944.

FUEL

"In training the DO 18 and BV 131 were used but by May 1944 the number of flights was being reduced daily due to the acute shortage of petrol, until in August practice in the air was entirely discontinued. It was at this stage that I, together with numerous other students, was transferred to the infantry. Among my colleagues in the 1st Paratroop Division I encountered not only countless ex-pupils from various air force schools, but also numerous experienced ex-flyers wearing such decorations as the DK and FFS in gold."

SOURCE: Private, German Air Force Rifle Battalion taken prisoner near POLIERO, Italy, 13 Oct. 44

FUEL

"I was one of a group of 27 drivers of gas trucks, delivering fuel from point to point on the airfield and occasionally to and from neighboring fields. It was at the beginning of August 1944 that the unit arrived in LYCK where, at the end of the month, they were completely disbanded due to 'Spritmangel' (gas shortage). Every man of the unit, flying personnel included, was thereupon relegated to the infantry."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Private, German Air Force Rifle Battalion, taken prisoner near POLIERO, Italy, 13 October 1944.

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SOURCE: German Corporal (GAF mechanic) who served as engine fitter in the 3rd Squadron, 121st Reconnaissance Group, from November 1941 to August 1944

FUEL

"From the beginning of 1944 onward the supply of gasoline became erratic. It never ceased entirely, but the irregularity of delivery caused a reduction in the number of operational missions. For instance, the Fliegerkorps would call for four missions and two only could be flown because of lack of fuel."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: General, captured Western Front, Aug. 44.

OIL

At his last conference on the oil situation, the General was told that production had decreased by one-third. Hours had been spent arguing whether the 10 cu.metres allowed for running in tanks could be cut down to 8 cu.metres.

SOURCE: General, captured Western Front, Sept. 1944.

OIL

During conversation with an engineer from DORNIERS at FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, the General was told that petrol available for testing aircraft was so scarce that one couldn't with a clear conscience take responsibility for letting the aircraft go out.

SOURCE: Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Center. Report, "Private Motor Transport in Germany".

OIL

In August 1944, all Berlin physicians, except a few in outlying districts, were given no motor fuel and were ordered to restrict their future practice to areas they can cover by public conveyance.

SOURCE: General, captured Sept. 1944, Western Front.

OIL

Source stated during the last days at ANTWERP he had two Staffeln of fighters, who could not take off because they had no fuel.

SOURCE: German infantry PFC from Leipzig captured near BOLOGNA, 8 November 1944.

OIL

Prisoner of war stated that on his furlough (May 1944) he learned that in the last attack on the BRABAG synthetic oil refinery at BÜHLEN as many workers were drowned in floods of oil as were killed and injured by the bomb explosions.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Conversation between 2 German Prisoners of War 12 December 1944; One a Ju 87 pilot (Sgt) shot down near FORLI 28 Nov. 44, and the other a German Air Force Signals non-com captured at end of November 1944.

OIL

A: But after the war I would rather go back to Germany even if I could get a good position in America.

B: It's better to get work in America than to stagnate in a camp.

A: Test pilot would be a nice job. I've already done that.

B: There one can try everything. But in Germany they hang onto every drop of gasoline.

\* \* \* \* \*

B: We're worrying, and in a few months the war will be over.

A: Yes, and what a shame! We have now come so far that aircraft pilots are being put in the infantry. I didn't tell the interrogating officer, though, that we have no more hope of winning the war; otherwise he would lay some traps for me (?).

B: Yes, they are trained in that here.

A: I know, to the plane, how many fighters there are still down there\*, but I didn't tell him that. There are only a very few.

B: But it doesn't only matter that we have so little materiel. There is also no gasoline and we haven't yet discovered how to fly with warm water.

A: They have destroyed a lot of the coal works (Kohlenbergwerke) without which we could never have made enough gasoline. Because of them, we were not so dependent on natural wells. From 1000 tons of coal we made 600 - 700 liters of gasoline. That sounds impossible but it's true. But of 24 works, 21 are destroyed.

\*Interrogator's note: "I guess he meant 'up there!'"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Colonel captured Italy, July 1944.

PROPAGANDA

Gierig, the best war correspondent, sent back propaganda photographs from NETTUNO titled, "American Bombers Attack APRILIA"---and then they were featured: "The G.A.F. in Action in the NETTUNO Area".

SOURCE: Information from Brig. General captured in Belgium, Sept. 1944.

PROPAGANDA

The rumor was spread officially that after the first big air raid on HAMBURG, 2000 Japanese airmen flew to LONDON.

SOURCE: German Gefreiter (PFC) captured south of BOLOGNA, 25 October 1944.

PROPAGANDA

Prisoner of war states that everyone in his unit, including the Oberleutnant (1st Lieutenant) read American leaflets. Most men believed them because men returning from furlough substantiated the truth of some of the items contained therein. Moreover, they were the only source of news they had. They swapped them with each other and the Oberleutnant was angry if he missed one. Prisoner of war states that one of the best things about the leaflets is the regularity with which they arrive.

SOURCE: German armored force sergeant captured in November 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"The Germans are bleeding to death for a lost cause. Some of them fight on because of the propaganda concerning the enemy. The people are repeatedly told that Americans are cruel and will make slaves of the Germans if they once occupy the country."

SOURCE: Educated 35-year old German infantry sergeant captured in October, 25 miles south of BOLOGNA.

PROPAGANDA

"It was last January 17 that I learned the accuracy of your propaganda. We were at MINITORNO on the GARIGLIANO River and had had a hard time of it all night. Almost all the 9th Company deserted. First thing in the morning over came your shells charged with leaflets. They gave all our losses of the night before. But exactly. I know because I checked up. Your air leaflets describing a prisoner's life were not so accurate."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: 30 year old Anti-Nazi sergeant from AALEN,  
Germany with 5 years army experience.

PROPAGANDA

"Whereas there were 10 or 12 different daily programs in Germany, for the last year the carefully censored radio offers only one program. Political news and speeches are usually given between 1800 and 2000 hours. News broadcasts are given every two hours. Much light music is broadcast for psychological reasons. Even 'good' music is written in a simplified style for the radio audience and 'heavy' music which might cause sadness or depression, is not used. No programs have to be listened to by family groups, but 'listening in' to political speeches is often compulsory for factory workers and other large groups. People laugh to themselves at the clumsy propaganda. When they are in their homes, they listen to English news broadcasts knowing that they are more accurate than the German. They would like to hear American in spite of the risk, but most sets are not powerful enough.

"German stations use a 'beat about the bush' policy with regards to news broadcasts. For instance when PARIS was taken by the Americans, the news commentators merely announced that towns in the vicinity of PARIS had been entered by Americans and that heavy fighting was in progress. Unthinking people let it go at that; the more intelligent assumed that PARIS had been taken. Another trick often used is to announce advances of the Allies long before they actually take place. Then when the exact progress of the Allies is broadcast, people think that they have been driven back."

SOURCE: SS officer captured on the Italian Front in  
October 1944, has forgotten Saxony.

PROPAGANDA

"If you tell a British soldier that he is fighting only in order that the Jews may dominate the world, he just bursts out laughing. But it really is true that the Jews do dominate the world. National Socialism was the only force that ever made any effective resistance to Judaism; therefore it made things too uncomfortable for the Jews, and that was how the war broke out. All enlightened Englishmen know that they themselves are of Jewish origin. ISAAC had a large number of children. Some of them emigrated, and came eventually to the part of the world now inhabited by Saxons. The name 'Saxon' comes from 'I - SAAC - SEN.' The British are also called Anglo-Saxons; therefore, obviously, from their very name, they must have Jewish blood."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A 32 year-old corporal from the Tyrol.

PROPAGANDA

"The propaganda you people here put out should be much more forceful. You should get your pilots to fly over our lines and write in the air 'Where is Hitler?'"

SOURCE: An old soldier of 2/721 Rifle Regiment, captured 22 October 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"Of course on the Western Front there is no question of our being able to hold out now. We've started to evacuate ESSEN and that's a sign of the beginning of the end. If we were still with Army we should never have got to hear about it, or if we had, we shouldn't have believed it. The troops were all dished out with Goebbelized news. I can tell you right now what tomorrow's communique will read like."

SOURCE: A Flag Officer in charge of defense troops at TOULON who surrendered when all ammunition was expended on 24 August 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"Goebbels is responsible for everything... that old club-foot with his damned propaganda. He's the only one I've hated right from the beginning. He hasn't got the least conception of strategy."

SOURCE: Infantry officer, captured near BOLOGNA in September 1944.

PROPAGANDA

Prisoner: "Well, anyhow, I don't suppose that we shall be prisoners for long. Five weeks at the most I should say."

Interrogator: "How do you mean? Are you going to try to escape?"

Prisoner: "Oh, no, nothing irregular like that. But in five weeks the war will be over!"

Interrogator: "Germany will lose, you mean?"

Prisoner: "No, not at all; on the contrary, we shall have won it!"

Interrogator: "But you can't win the war in five weeks!"

Prisoner: "Well, I'll tell you something. My battalion commander was in Germany recently and when he got back, he told us that there was recently a secret party conference held at which the Fuehrer announced that we were in the last days of the war; that victory was ours. "

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Lt. Colonel of an Infantry regiment taken prisoner at SAARBURG, France, 20 November 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"A man from the Propaganda Ministry gave a course of National Socialist lectures which I was obliged to attend. One was on 'The Americans in the Field'. Afterwards I said to him, 'The Americans treat our wounded very well.' He replied, 'You are not allowed to say that.' I said, 'Permit me to mention something which I have seen at the front with my own eyes.' That made him furious. 'That does not agree with our conceptions; you are not permitted to make such a statement,' he said. Later on, at home, they made things difficult for my wife."

SOURCE: Artillery Lieutenant captured at GRASSINA, Italy, 4 August 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"We never manage to get other countries completely and whole-heartedly on our side. They are always against us. But that is the thing that the Allies understand so well - how to get other races on their side. We shall never learn that and therefore I believe that, even if we had won the war, things wouldn't have been by any means as bright as our propaganda makes out."

SOURCE: Colonel of Engineers captured in STASBOURG, France, 23 November 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"The German Army communiques are most misleading. For instance, I read a report which said that the Russians in my sector were thrown back with hundreds of losses. That evening I drove out to see for myself. When I asked a detachment, they replied that they had shot only one Russian.....The entire civilian population (of the place) must have been included in the official prisoner of war figures."

SOURCE: Lieutenant of the 15th Motorized Grenadiers, taken prisoner at ROMOLA, Italy, 4 August 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"Even if the Jews are a loathsome race, we should have waited to destroy them until we were strong and were more or less in control of the world."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A German Artillery officer, captured on Fifth Army Front, 15 November 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"Of course, we are still using the V-1. I should judge that by now LONDON must look almost as bad as BERLIN."

SOURCE: Private in an SS Reconnaissance Battalion captured south of BOLOGNA, 25 October 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"Our wonder weapons are only in their infancy. On the production lines even now are those weapons with which we'll ring Germany. The destruction of our cities will be as nothing. All Europe will disintegrate under the onslaught of those weapons. Not a foot of ground will there be for the Allies to get through. Even in Italy one has already seen preparations where these weapons will be installed. Our soldiers know this, they will hold until the time comes. You cannot win the war."

SOURCE: Corporal from Staffel 7, Group III Kampfgeschwader 77 (Bomb Wing), captured off ORAN, 12 July 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"Nowadays, if leaflets are dropped over Germany, all the Hitler Youth and SS are sent out to collect them all, and within an hour there just aren't any more to be seen. Why, I personally have never seen a single enemy leaflet dropped over Germany. I think that it would pay them, on one night, instead of dropping bombs, to concentrate entirely on dropping leaflets, explaining the whole position. They'd have a much greater effect than the bombs would. But they'd have to concentrate everything on dropping only leaflets; then there'd be so many of them that it would be impossible for the authorities to collect them all."

SOURCE: A German sailor, operator of a one-man submarine, captured off MONACO, 5 September 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"I tell you, there's no justice in the world. The Fuehrer and Mussolini are the two greatest statesmen, and it's a sad business that all their work is being destroyed. Germany will never be able to thank the Fuehrer enough for all he has done. There are only a few who blame the Fuehrer. It's the Generals who are responsible for the turn of the war - they were always against the Fuehrer. He should have taken command himself in the West."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Nazi Petty Officer, captured at sea,  
1 November 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"I'm sure of one thing though, they will never be able to beat Japan. They've got people who ride on a torpedo against the Allied warships. Say there are 10,000 of them, and if half are wiped out, the rest could finish off the whole Allied Fleet no matter how big it was. I don't think there is anything they can do against the Japanese at sea."

SOURCE: A thirty-year old private in the engineers,  
former journalist and photographer from BERLIN,  
captured at TREQUANDA, 2 July 1944.

PROPAGANDA

Interrogator: "How are the weekly newsreels (Wochenschau) really filmed?"

Prisoner: "Most of the soldiers seem to know by now that they're a fake and are filmed in TEMPELHOF. There's a so-called propaganda action unit in POTSDAM doing it. For instance, the Supreme Headquarters Communique says 'a Russian village was taken by storm'. Well, the engineers set to work and put up the Russian village opposite the palace in POTSDAM."

Interrogator: "And the people who work with them keep their mouths shut?"

Prisoner: "They're all Party big shots. They call themselves Propaganda Company, but they're referred to as the Protection Company or the Party Company. The battles were staged in the park grounds of the LUSIGARTEN and Russian trench warfare was filmed on the SCHÖNHEIDE. Artillery battles were done in DOBFRIEZE."

Interrogator: "And how many shots are actually taken in the front-line?"

Prisoner: "I should say about five percent."

Interrogator: "And U-boat films?"

Prisoner: "Those are all right. But Russian towns situated on river banks, for instance, are reproduced opposite the BABELSBERT SCHUTZENHAUS on the BABELSBERG side of the river."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured near BOLOGNA, 12 February 1945.

PROPAGANDA

"All over Germany the walls of the railroad stations are plastered with posters bearing the slogan: WHILE HIS MUST ROLL FOR VICTORY. Underneath them, anti-Nazis have chalked: 'And Nazi heads after the war!'"

SOURCE: German Second Lieutenant captured at LUGO, 4 January 1945

PROPAGANDA

"They (the Americans) only started the war in order to speed up their industries and find new markets for their goods. It's quite immaterial to them whether a few Americans, more or less, are killed. It all helps to relieve their labor problem after the war! They have a healthy respect for us because of what we have achieved!"

SOURCE: German Private who deserted to Italian Partisans near FURNO, 4 January 1945.

PROPAGANDA

"Of course we all used to think that the English and Americans were savages. In any case, that's what was drummed into us day and night, and we idiots accepted it as gospel truth! We took it all in and fought to the last or went into the hills to the Partisans; anything rather than be caught by the Allies."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Corporal captured at BAGNACAVALLLO,  
18 December 1944

PROPAGANDA

"On the whole, I think Allied propaganda is effective. The English news pamphlets that were dropped over us were about the only news we got. And then sometimes there were photographs, too. I remember some that were dropped: A man in civilian clothes is returning to his home and his wife and children are coming out to meet him. On the back of the photograph was a reproduction of a page from the 'Volkischer Beobachter' giving various obituary notices. Underneath the photograph was the caption, 'Prisoners get back home again!' I thought it very good."

SOURCE: A U-boat Captain picked up in the Mediterranean,  
August 1944, speaks with a pro-Ally Austrian.

PROPAGANDA

Captain: "We will win - there is no doubt about it."

Austrian: "I hope so."

Captain: "One of the first demands our government will make is the immediate return of all prisoners."

Austrian: "That will be fine."

Captain: "But I do hope that I'll get a few days leave when I get back to Germany."

Austrian: "What do you mean?"

Captain: "I mean that I should like to spend a few days at home before we are sent off to the German occupation of England."

SOURCE: German Private, former Supreme Court counselor,  
captured at ST VITH, Belgium, 15 January 1945

PROPAGANDA

"I am opposed to Nazism because of its unnecessary cruelty, its disregard for given promises, and its abolishment of due process of law. I am convinced of the utter egotistic ruthlessness of the Nazi leaders and expect Hitler to be sufficiently determined and able to carry out his promise to fight to the last battalion."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Air Force Sergeant, 12th Company  
3rd Paratroop Regiment, captured at OSTI  
ALATRI, June 2, 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"I don't believe it - you're from the Air Force, too, how is it possible to make 13,000 sorties? That's nonsense - you would have destroyed the whole of France by now. And as for the thousands of smaller craft - I suppose you've got barges and canoes among them, and probably counted the life boats, too. But 4,000 ships - that's really impossible. Look at DIEPPE, you had about 80 or 100 ships, how can you have 4,000 now? I can't believe it. I should like to listen to the German radio now, and if they said there were 200 ships, against your version of 4,000 I might perhaps believe the Allies had about 1,000. Just think, 4,000 ships and 13,000 sorties - you haven't got so many air fields to take off from in one night. You haven't flown 13,000 sorties over Germany during the last four years of war, let alone in 24 hours."

SOURCE: Infantry corporal taken prisoner at  
CHIETI, Italy, June 16, 1944.

PROPAGANDA

"And how did it come about the whole of Germany was shouting 'Heil Hitler'? Because they were standing behind them with the whip and the threat of the concentration camp, only because of that. And the war, why did that have to come? Because Hitler went mad - it's exactly as the Allies say - it's quite true. The megalomaniac, just think of all the misery that man has brought on the German people!"

SOURCE: Lt. General captured at BOULOGNE, France,  
23 September 1944.

PROPAGANDA

(Speaking of the possibility of guerrilla warfare in Germany.)

"But here's the idea people are being intoxicated with now: Suddenly - since they are living continually in a state of illusions - they see a deeply coordinated system behind the defensive line, behind which there are relatively few military reserves, in which every house will be converted into a fortress.....That is all illusion - the last illusion they have. That is to say, I am convinced that these fellows at the top themselves don't believe it: Goebbels sees far too clearly. But those illusions are being foisted on the people."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Colonel, captured Western Front, Sept. 44.

SUPPLY

All the supplies for the half million men in Norway were destroyed in the big attack on HAMBURG. They cannot be replaced, especially the canned goods.

SOURCE: Naval Commander, captured Sept. 1944, France.

SUPPLY

"Owing to Allied bombing, no supplies arrived in BREST for months."

SOURCE: Information from General captured France, Sept. 1944.

SUPPLY

"That Allied air attacks on Germany disturb our industry needs no further comment. On the other hand, we have decentralized ourselves and this enables us to go on working though, naturally, we lose a lot of time due to the necessary reconstruction."

SOURCE: German Infantry private captured North of FLORENCE, 20 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"We never had supplies. You couldn't get enough benzine to fill your cigarette lighter. Before we were captured we'd had only one day's ration of food to last us a week. Even in training we never used live munitions."

SOURCE: Private, German Prisoner of War, captured 1 October 1944 south of BOLOGNA.

SUPPLY

"We were moving up to the (Central Russian) front, and I had only one blanket. So I swiped another. They caught me and gave me a year and a half. I served only a year because they needed men here in the West."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner of War, twenty-one years old,  
student from HAMBURG, captured at FORLI,  
Italy, December 1944.

SUPPLY

"We had some frightful experiences in Russia, and especially during the retreat. There were some parts of the front where the men were reduced to eating wood which was used for revetting the dug-outs. All the horses either froze to death or were slaughtered for food. The whole attack went wrong. Then I was wounded and was evacuated by plane."

SOURCE: Ammunition carrier for a machine-gun  
platoon, captured at ALFONSINO, Italy,  
15 December 1944.

SUPPLY

"Why, we had men with us who had only had three weeks' training! And that Captain that we had, when an utter fool the man was! We'd no spades, no cleaning materials for the weapons, nothing. We ever had a machine gun 34 without a spare barrel."

SOURCE: Warrant Officer (Stabsfeldwebel) of a  
Transport Squadron captured at sea 60  
miles north of Crete after being shot  
down 11 October 1944.

SUPPLY

"In the Naval Air Force one can count the planes we still have on one's fingers. We haven't any more fighter squadrons, so all that's left is the Sea Rescue and Transport. The DO 18 was always used as a reconnaissance plane over England, but we haven't got those any more, either. They were all shot down."

SOURCE: A transport flyer captured 11 December 1944  
off Crete.

SUPPLY

"The Rolls Royce engines are better than ours. Yes, if only we had the same materials as the Americans, then nothing could beat the German engine. But, you see, the engines we have now have all been put together individually. If we had the necessary material, we could not only build them more easily, but make them of a better quality, too. The JU 88 is not too bad, and BMW engines have always been good. The BMW, for instance, just goes on and on, come what may; 600 - 700 h.p. and twelve cylinders. It was really amazingly long wearing."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An artilleryman captured at MACERATA, Italy 21 July 1944.

SUPPLY

"With all your tanks against us, it is a sad state of affairs that we have to come along with our horse-drawn guns and six rounds a day to be fired only on the authority of the divisional commander."

SOURCE: Officer from a tank-destroyer company taken prisoner by Italian Partisans, December 1944.

SUPPLY

"One of my corporals tried to knock out a tank with a grenade launcher. The tank was standing only ten meters from him, and he launched three grenades, but every one was a dud."

SOURCE: First Lieutenant from a German Air Force Rifle Regiment captured at MONTE POGGIO, Italy, 12 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"God, what a rotten business it all is - you've only got to look at all the things you've got! Tank after tank, and everything motorized, and there are we poor devils with our ox carts and infantry carts. We took every cart we could find from the peasants and all the bicycles, too - women's bikes and all. And if we do happen to get hold of a captured truck then we don't have the petrol to run it. It's enough to make one howl. And the uniforms the Yanks have got here - I haven't seen a single patched one."

SOURCE: Twenty-two year old German Air Force Corporal captured in Southern France, 16 August 1944.

SUPPLY

"Towards the end our machines were never ready. There was always something wrong with them, or else we had no oil or gasoline for them."

SOURCE: A Second Lieutenant of Infantry captured near CESENA, Italy, 19 October 1944.

SUPPLY

"They say 'Trust Hitler; leave it to Hitler!' When I see the war materials which lie along the roadside here I can scarcely believe my eyes. If Germany were to win the war now, as the Nazis believe, it would be the most perfect absurdity that world history has ever produced."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Veteran German infantry Sergeant captured on the 5th Army Front, 1 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"If our people could see how well the Americans live and how superior they are in numbers, they would all come over. For instance, I haven't seen a single horse since I came here; everything is motorized. And not one of the Yanks is badly shaven. I was taken prisoner by a Yank and a Partisan. It was the first Yank I had seen and I was surprised how clean they were. That sort of thing is bound to make a lot of difference. We'll never be as clean as they are. They even have their shoes in good repair."

SOURCE: Lieutenant in a German Infantry unit captured on the 5th Army Front in October 1944.

SUPPLY

"Our politicians keep contradicting themselves. They say that our troops must do their best to make up for our shortage of weapons and at the same time they propose to set up new SS divisions. If they do so, how do they intend to find the weapons for them?"

SOURCE: Two artillery officers captured at RIMINI, 2 September 1944.

SUPPLY

1st P.W.: "At night they (the Allies) fire entirely from maps, and very accurately, too."

Interrogator: "But you've got maps as well."

1st P.W.: "Yes, we've got maps all right - but no ammunition!"

2nd P.W.: "In the whole of our Battalion we had only three 1:100,000 maps."

1st P.W.: "And in my troop I only had 26 rounds of ammunition!"

2nd P.W.: "As I was moving up to the front, I saw an artillery troop using oxen to pull its guns. The enlisted men were sitting on them just like Italians."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry Sergeant-Major captured at FORLI airdrome, Italy, 8 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"One day we were armed with hand grenades and sent out to requisition bicycles from the Italians."

SOURCE: Paratrooper Colonel, a thirty-year old Regular, captured north of AREZZO by Partisans, 30 July, 1944.

SUPPLY

"If you look at the German Army today you can see that it's completely undermined. The only really good soldiers there are left are in the infantry, but they haven't got anything to fight with: there's nothing left - they can't fight with their bare hands. And even they are fed up with fighting now. The only thing that holds them together now is force and it only needs a spark to blow the whole thing sky-high!"

SOURCE: Captain of the 16th SS Tank Battalion, captured south of BOLOGNA, 12 October 1944.

SUPPLY

"Yes, there were a lot of mistakes made during the withdrawal through sheer stupidity. For instance, ammunition dumps and ration stores which could no longer be got back were blown up but, nevertheless, new supplies which later on couldn't be evacuated any more continued to roll up from the rear without interruption."

SOURCE: Supply Officer captured near STRASBOURG, France, 23 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"A division never has very much.....One day I had a phone call and they asked me why I wanted 500 hogs. I knew nothing about it.....Then we got 1000 head of cattle and 500 hogs (for a new unit). You Americans have them now and 100 tons of canned meat as well."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A young Luftwaffe mechanic, Corporal,  
51st Air Signals Regiment, captured at  
AGAY, France, 15 August 1944.

SUPPLY

"I'm only too glad to have been given American blankets. Sleeping in German blankets is like sleeping on pine needles. American blankets are far superior to anything we've got."

SOURCE: A member of a German mobile signals unit,  
captured in Southern France, 3 September 44.

SUPPLY

"I saw the car park at NAPLES and the amount of gasoline you've got there! The difference, as compared with our own situation, is incredible. Why, you even cook on gasoline stoves. Vehicles can draw as much gasoline as they like; all they have to do is to fill in a form. The Allies can't possibly lose the war."

SOURCE: Colonel of Engineers captured at STRASBOURG,  
France, 23 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"It is fortunate that American tactics are just as ineffectual as ours. They charge like bulls. First they line up, then they advance.....However, no matter how hard the Allies try to make mistakes, they cannot help but win. Look at all the material behind them. They wage war with the pencil: 'So and so many tons will assure us of such and such a ratio of superiority.' What their morale amounts to does not matter."

SOURCE: Brigadier General captured at STRASBOURG,  
France, 23 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"Our (General Staff).....for which I have not much respect are sincere young men without the remotest idea of how to direct a war. They thought I could construct works every 20 meters. So I said to them, 'Gentlemen, do you realize that for every bunker we build we need three trains full of material. A bunker has to have 1,500 tons of iron and concrete and one train carries only 500 tons.' These young General Staff officers have no conception of such matters."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An Austrian infantry Corporal, captured at SAN CLEMENTE, 15 October 1944.

SUPPLY

"And we had to do everything with machine guns - that's just perfect against artillery. And the ammunition's no good; it's chiefly training ammunition. Because of the shortage of it you have to have the company commander's permission before you can open fire. Anyone still alive today can count himself lucky. All the elite troops have been wiped out. There are only the very young ones and the old men left."

SOURCE: Corporal in the German Army taken prisoner by Greek Partisans at EUBOEA, 4 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"One must admit that the Allies have more planes than we have. Our tank-production factories are the only ones as far as I know so dispersed as to make it difficult to destroy them by bombing; and yet with a few bombing attacks production has been reduced by one-third."

SOURCE: Private, Rifle battalion, captured near BOLOGNA, 7 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"For a whole week in August we received no food supplies to feed the 200 men in our outfit. We had to forage for food, stealing sheep and other things from the Italians. Because of the gasoline shortage, we had to use oxen for supply. In a whole battalion, there was only one truck for carrying supplies."

SOURCE: Information obtained 12 November 1944 from General Officer captured at AMIENS, 31 August 1944.

SUPPLY

"It is inevitable that our supplies of food and raw materials will diminish through the winter. We haven't even the means of producing decent steel. That will cause a reduction in home output for the front and a consequent reduction in front morale. The soldiers have done their utmost but with no more reserves in men and materials, things will slowly disintegrate so that, as Churchill says, the end will come round about May."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured on the Fifth Army Front, February 1945.

SUPPLY

"I was amazed when my captors took us back a short distance toward their lines and then telephoned headquarters. On our side the communications are so badly disrupted by bombings and the shortage of wire that headquarters sometimes remained out of touch with some of their outposts for days. We often don't know where parts of the unit are or whether they have been killed, wounded, or captured.

"The extent of Allied motorization surprised me. So acute is the German shortage of motor transport that we have been mounting 150 mm. guns with oxen. Some of our Panzerabwehrkompanie (anti-tank companies) are equipped with horses."

SOURCE: German Corporal captured near ST. VITH, Belgium, 25 January 1945

SUPPLY

"The Royal Tiger (German tank) uses a great deal of gasoline - 600 to 800 liters per 100 kilometers. The Tiger uses only 500. These tanks have airplane engines. They have a long-barreled, 75mm. special gun which fires very rapidly. The Royal Tiger cannot be penetrated. It has two armored walls and I have been told there is water between them. These German tanks are good - the best - but we haven't enough of them.

"The American Sherman tank is also good. Once there was a Sherman 25 meters in front of me, I could easily have shot it up but my anti-tank grenades were without fuses. They must have become lost in transport."

SOURCE: German Staff Sergeant captured near GILLENBURCH, Germany, 30 January 1945

SUPPLY

"The Americans really have no trouble with ammunition. They bring everything up at night. You can hear them with their rubber tires. They drive up to within 100 meters of the line. We always knew when they eating, when they received ammunition, or were being relieved. They talked together quite loudly. My comrade wanted to fire once but I stopped him just in time. 'You fool, he has a lot more to fire than you do!' The Lieutenant came along soon and definitely told us not to fire."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured on the Fifth Army Front,  
February 1945.

SUPPLY

"The flow of Allied war material that each of us prisoners has observed in the last few days has been the best possible propaganda for the U.S.A. When one recalls how on the German side everyone had to skimp and pinch and spare under the strictest penalties, how we had hardly a truck left, then it must become clear to even the most dyed-in-the-wool Nazi that you cannot fight such overwhelming superiority in material."

SOURCE: Austrian Private captured on the Eighth Army  
Front January 1945

SUPPLY

"They are processing sausages from a partial mixture of sawdust now. You get them with ration coupons and, as a matter of fact, they are not bad. They are actually edible."

SOURCE: German Corporal captured near LAMONE, Italy,  
6 January 1945.

SUPPLY

"As far as I know every troop of four guns had a hundred rounds of ammunition per day. But they weren't allowed to use it all because one never knew whether further supplies would be able to come up the next day. At night we never answered the barrage the British put down unless they actually followed it up with an attack."

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured on the Fifth Army Front,  
February 1945.

SUPPLY

"Our mission in Italy is only too clear. It is to hold on to the resources of the rich Po Valley for German consumption. Were it not for the plentiful grain and cereal supplies in this area, we would have retreated to the Alps long ago. No more food is being shipped into Italy from Germany. On the contrary, more food is exported to Germany from Italy than ever before. The Po Valley supports the entire Wehrmacht in Italy."

"Even the cattle are being rounded up and sent to Germany. They are driven in droves along the roads of Northern Italy and the confusion is incredible. If they proceed by day, strafing attacks stampede the herd. On the other hand, if they go by night, the cattle are continually straggled off the road into the hills and getting lost."

TOP SECRET

German Corporal captured at B.G.N. CAVALLO, 15  
December 1944.

SUPPLY

"Worst of all is the clothing problem. The situation is very serious there. There's complete breakdown in supplies. Of course there can be only one explanation for it; that as a result of bombing attacks whole storehouses full of clothes have been destroyed."

SOURCE: German Captain captured near BOLOGNA, 12 October 1944

SUPPLY

"I'm a soldier and, therefore, it's perfectly clear to me that you can't win a war unless you have the equipment to do it with. I don't believe that miracles can happen. Of course, the only thing that could save us would be if we could destroy the American and British air forces; that would at least give us a chance."

SOURCE: Conversation between two German Corporals captured on the Fifth Army Front, December 1944.

SUPPLY

1st Cpl: "I wonder what would happen if the Germans had the Allied Air Force?"

2nd Cpl: "They'd be back in Sicily by now!"

1st Cpl: "The Germans have no fuel left in any case."

2nd Cpl: "And the Allies have more planes, artillery, and fuel than they know what to do with."

1st Cpl: "They don't have to use their infantry at all. They do everything with tanks and planes."

2nd Cpl: "And we are supposed to stick out our heads and be killed and nobody really knows why."

1st Cpl: "Oh, it's all so awful! Damn and blast Hitler!"

SOURCE: German Private captured near VILLANOVA, 10 December 1944.

SUPPLY

"Isn't it amazing how the Luftwaffe just suddenly disappeared? They've had it as far as fuel is concerned. It's madness to go on building planes when we've hardly enough fuel to start the things, much less fly them! We had to build V-weapons because we didn't have enough petrol for ordinary piloted aircraft. They were only to act as substitutes for planes, and then our propaganda got busy and tried to convince us that they were actually better than planes. It's as if someone told you that margarine is better than butter."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Corporal in the German Army taken prisoner by Greek Partisans at EUBOEA, 4 November 1944.

SUPPLY

"One must admit that the Allies have more planes than we have. Our tank-production factories are the only ones as far as I know so dispersed as to make it difficult to destroy by bombing; and yet with a few bombing attacks production has been reduced by one third."

SOURCE: Private, Rifle battalion, captured near BOLOGNA, 7 November 1944.

SUPPLY

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SOURCE: Artillery officer captured on the Fifth Army Front in November 1944

SUPPLY

"And when you see all the transport that the English and Americans have, you lose all heart. That they threw against us in Russia was bad enough but it wasn't anything in comparison with Italy."

SOURCE: German General captured at PARIS, 25 August 1944.

SUPPLY

"Once the invasion began, we didn't get any more supplies or reinforcements or any more tanks. I envy those who still believe in victory. But why shouldn't they? I still believe in religion."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Artillery officer captured on the Fifth Army Front in November 1944.

SUPPLY

"And when you see all the transport that the English and Americans have, you lose all heart. What they threw against us in Russia was bad enough but it wasn't anything in comparison with Italy."

SOURCE: A Nazi machine gunner with 7 years service. Statement made 11 September 1944.

TACTICAL

(Reference is to ground strafing.) "...we got used to it. Although it was hard to keep the men in line. Even in the ditches and shrubbery on the sides of the road, a man wasn't safe. After the vehicles were hit and the men were dispersing other planes would fly on either side of the road and machine-gun the men where they lay."

SOURCE: Sudetenland deserter. Statement made 11 September 1944.

TACTICAL

"We got to know the aircraft pretty well. Two, which we treated with awed respect, we called 'Donner and Blitzen', (P-47 and P-38). It was by watching these planes operate that many of the men lost their impression of the Luftwaffe's invincibility."

SOURCE: An eighteen year-old native of VIENNA, who had just finished his ground training, but had had his transfer to a school continuously deferred until his capture in Southern France about 21 September 1944.

TACTICAL

"...very successful, especially against small targets. The Lightnings (P-38) are particularly feared. Even if no damage is suffered, the sudden appearance of the planes causes such panic and resultant disorganization and delay that the effort can be considered worthwhile for that reason alone. The frequency of these attacks and the complete absence of the GAF caused many of the soldiers to wonder about the veracity of their propaganda, which has been seriously doubted ever since the V-1 (flying bomb) failed to live up to expectations."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An Austrian deserter, Statement made Sept. 11, 1944.

TACTICAL

(Reference is to ground strafing in Southern France.) "The entire column was in chaos. At first orders couldn't be heard or were not heeded if they were heard. Few men were killed outright, but there were many wounded. Not more than 15% of the vehicles got through undamaged. There wasn't a man among us who wouldn't prefer a month in front line trenches to one of those attacks."

SOURCE: Hungarian Leaders of the resistance movement who fled Hungary, 9 December 1944, seeking to establish relations with Allied Military Leaders.

TACTICAL

The DONAU FLUGZEUG FABRIK near BUDAPEST was about 50% destroyed by the first bombing in March 1944. The most noteworthy contribution of later attacks was the destruction of 60 Me 210's on the airfield.

SOURCE: Hungarian Leaders of the resistance movement who fled Hungary 9 December 1944, seeking to establish relations with Allied Military Leaders.

TACTICAL

Losses in the Hungarian Air Force proved to be so heavy that the entire output of the two large Hungarian aircraft factories, the GYOR WAGEN UND MASCHINEN FABRIK at GYOR and the DONAU FLUGZEUG FABRIK near BUDAPEST, for the month of September 1944 was promised by the Germans to bolster Hungarian air strength. The number of craft received, the actual total produced in Hungary during the month, was 90 planes.

SOURCE: Twenty-three year old Italian engineering student, captured in November 1944.

TACTICAL

"Your bombing of MODENA has knocked out the station and marshalling yards and put the CORNI Foundry, the O.C.I. Fiat plant and the main tobacco factory out of business. This last item made the civilians very unhappy for the Germans had already walked off with most of our tobacco."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Luftwaffe ground-crew Sergeant, captured 18 October 1944.

TACTICAL

"Our withdrawals in Italy were always a fearful shambles. At half past four in the morning you had to start thinking about taking cover, because the first fighters used to start appearing about then. If you had seen our withdrawal in Italy, you would have said that it was plain madness to go on with the war. We always traveled at night and rested during the day. You were never safe from the bombers in the daytime. I haven't seen any German fighters since June. Everything moving on the roads used to be shot up. They even had to use horses to pull tanks, because of the shortage of petrol, so as not to leave them."

SOURCE: Twenty-nine year old native of BERLIN on duty in a flak unit. Statement made September 11 1944.

TACTICAL

"It was the P-47's that gave us the greatest trouble. Their approach was so fast that we were rarely able to get an effective shot at them before they were over and gone the way those boys flew. . . the recklessness. . . the utter disregard for trees. Their greatest damage is not caused by their guns, but by the fear they create in our younger men."

SOURCE: Captured German Document - Reference: 19th Air Force Field Division, Order No. 40, Division Headquarters.

TACTICAL

Enemy aerial reconnaissance detects our every movement, every concentration, every weapon, and immediately after detection, smashes every one of these objectives. This is accomplished by a close coordination of Air Force and Artillery. Every soldier must be made to realize that the enemy's present superiority in the air is not of temporary duration - subject to time and location - but rather that it is a part of a permanent set of conditions that must be faced by our troops. Experience demonstrates that the enemy knows how to reconnoiter and destroy our every concentration. Every weapon detected by the enemy is destroyed by coordinate fire, directed by his OP's. The enemy can conduct his artillery reconnaissance observation completely unhindered. Every vehicle must post an air look-out. The best means of locomotion for individuals, as well as whole units, is the bicycle. To find appropriate cover with lightning speed, practice is necessary. More than ever before, units must be trained fully to master the art of camouflage. It is not enough that soldiers know how to attack grass and twigs to their helmets. Complete camouflage of men and material is required.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Panzer General, captured August 1944 Western Front.

TACTICAL

The Allies smashed everything with the air force. All the bridges across the SEINE were destroyed, so that it was only possible to bring Panzer divisions from the north to the south of the river by ferries which, of course, was very difficult.

SOURCE: Port Commandant, captured September 1944, France.

TACTICAL

The Allied success in France mainly due to air superiority; the troops could not stand up to the Allied "carpet bombing".

SOURCE: A special interrogation of various German Prisoners captured in FLORENCE and in Southern France.

TACTICAL

An Unteroffizier captured in Italy:

".....the war is almost over anyhow....what damage can it do if I tell you that the strafing is the most feared, the most hated form of combat any of us have had to face. It is not your bullets that do the damage but the fear that those attacks breed in our men. Never have I seen such complete demoralization as when your planes pop up out of the bushes...."

A thirty-eight year old Gefreiter, driver of a supply truck:

"The greatest achievement of your strafing planes was the havoc they played with our supply problem. In the first place we could only travel at night, losing 50% effectiveness of each vehicle. In the day time even single trucks were attacked. Once twenty out of forty vehicles were destroyed in one attack."

A young Nazi of the Luftwaffe ground personnel:

"We were travelling north about 50 km. N. of Montpellier with ten empty trucks. Our mission was to rescue a company that had been pinned and surrounded by the FFI. We were attacked by seven Mosquitoes and five of the ten trucks went up in flames. The possibility of further attacks and our decimated facilities made the rescue of our men impossible."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A special interrogation of various German Prisoners captured in FLORENCE and in Southern France. (cont'd)

TACTICAL

A radio-man serving in a W/T station near Istres:

"The attacks came entirely without warning and were met with absolutely no opposition as the Luftwaffe had already been pulled back and the flak defenses had been removed the day before. The attacks came on two successive days. The first day it was the Lightnings. They seemed only to be after personnel. The next day the Thunderbolts came. They seemed to know exactly what they were after. Through the walls and windows they destroyed one of two transformers as well as some other equipment. We were unable to operate and had to send important information to the next station by motorcycle."

An ambulance driver in southern France:

" I have no quarrel with strafing as a military maneuver, but in using it the Allies have reached an absolute low in military banditry. Twice, while I had wounded in my vehicle I was deliberately attacked. On one occasion, my ambulance was the only car on a stretch of road of over two kilometers. I was attacked by one P-47 and it was only the pilot's poor aim that saved both the vehicle and the patients I was carrying. Another time three planes made an attack against a column, getting numerous hits. Then while we were tending the wounded, the planes returned and killed many of the wounded and medical aid men. Had any of those planes been shot down, not a pilot would have remained alive. They would have been torn to pieces by our soldiers. I intend to lodge a complaint with the Red Cross at the first opportunity."

A thirty-three year old Austrian:

".....the thing that unnerved our men was the absolute uselessness of any counter measures....."

A young mess attendant captured in southern France:

"We would be told that fresh rations were on the way...when they arrived, they came with stories that out of twelve trucks, seven were burned out. That is a hard story to tell hungry men....."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A special interrogation of various German Prisoners captured in FLORENCE and in Southern France. (cont'd.).

TACTICAL

A fervent Nazi infantryman captured in Italy:

"Strafing...that's a fine example of how you people wage war. You wait until the Luftwaffe is called back. Then when you know you'll have no opposition, you send your new flyers in to shoot the devil out of our troops. You can tell they are the young pilots by the way they fly. You never achieve anything by it. You might slow down our movement, but what do you hit? I'd like to see you try your strafing when some of our planes are about."

In the same vein, a radio man captured in southern France:

"Just don't try any of your strafing when you get to Germany and have our own planes to contend with. I've never yet seen your flyers so daring with their murder heroics when GAF fighters give them a taste of their own tactics."

A medical corps Feldwebel:

"Strafing...a hideous form of warfare...."

A thirty-two year old Austrian truck driver:

"Strafing seems to be a cheap method of achieving great results. Your planes are on us without warning. Their speed is so great that it is impossible to return even small arms fire. Toward the end we actually had order NOT to fire as doing so was just a waste of ammunition."

A thirty-one year old Oberfeldwebel with 18 years' service;

"From Sicily to FLORENCE the strafing won the battle of Italy."

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War captured at PROYERES, 16 October, 1944.

TACTICAL

The flak crews at the Nafta Works in PARDUBICE had had so many false alarms that they remained dozing in the sun at the foot of their towers when the alarm was given on 24 August (1944).

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War captured at PROYERES  
16 October 1944.(cont'd)

TACTICAL

The prisoner of war said: "Then it came. We didn't even have a chance to fire. The whole works went up in the air. We were 200 meters away (approx. 219 yards), but a lot of bombs fell around us, too. One blew the head off the boy beside me. The place burned five days. They'll never be able to build it up again."

SOURCE: Prisoner of War who was captured on Italian  
Front in October passed through PARDUBICE on  
a furlough train, 23 July 1944.

TACTICAL

The FANTO FABRIK Oil Refinery at PARDUBICE attacked on the night of 20/21 July, was still burning three days later. Only troop trains were permitted to pass through the railroad station; civilian traffic was held up for at least two days.

SOURCE: Report of Combined Services Detailed Interro-  
gation Center, Air Section - Two civilian en-  
gineers employed in the construction of the  
airfield at ORANGE.

TACTICAL

"The chaos was indescribable. We were attempting to get out by motor transportation. The roads were funnelled through a small valley through which only one adequate highway was attempting to carry the traffic that poured from at least a half dozen other over-crowded roads. Everything was jam-packed: the traffic tie-up was such that forward movement was limited almost to yards per hour. Part of this was due to the fact that planes were coming over, necessitating a complete halt to take cover, and part was due to the fact that many attacks had left the roads littered with burned-out vehicles. We were simply caught in a pocket. The American cars and tanks simply ignored the highways and by-passed us through the fields on either side of the road. We had heard stories (from the Germans) that the march through France was to be an orderly retreat; what we saw was as far from that as the imagination can conceive."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Major General, captured Western Front,  
October 1944.

TACTICAL

After the Germans ran out of light flak ammunition, Allied aircraft made all movement by day impossible. Even individual soldiers were shot up.

SOURCE: General, captured Sept. 1944 Belgium.

TACTICAL

The accuracy of Allied fighter bombers was uncanny. Heavy guns and transport which had to travel by day were completely smashed up.

SOURCE: Corporal, Signals, captured Sept. 1944,  
TOULOUSE.

TACTICAL

It was all pretty grim; we were bombed night and day by MAAF and RAF; it was more than anyone could stand. After each attack you would see knocked out vehicles and soldiers lying in the road. The pilots were incredibly good at spotting our positions.

SOURCE: Lieutenant, captured September 1944, Italy.

TACTICAL

The Thunderbolts attacked with real determination, coming right down to 60 metres, and dropped their bombs with extraordinary accuracy. Their new tactics are for a flight of 6 aircraft to approach; the first 2 dive and drop one bomb and then rejoin the flight. They then all turn about and instead of the next two attacking, any of them may attack. One drops his bombs, another fires his machine guns. It becomes a regular war of nerves; not like in the old days when one knew they would drop their bombs and then attack with machine guns - now one doesn't know whether to take cover, go on firing or get out altogether.



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Information from General captured at BREST, September 1944.

TACTICAL

"BREST was terrible. The air attacks were appalling; in fact, they were hellish. The bombs rained down from the skies and smashed everything up. The heavy blockbusters knocked everything to blazes and the whole town became a heap of rubble. Nothing can be done against that. The flak positions were known and were visible from the air; they were immediately smashed up by bomb carpets. As a result, the whole of the flak defences were put out of action. We had no aircraft; we were too far away."

SOURCE: German Ammunition feeder on 88mm. gun captured near BOLOGNA in September 1944.

TACTICAL

The moment we believe your aircraft (Piper Cub) has spotted us, we dash for our shelters and begin to count the seconds. Usually, by the end of 20 seconds, your artillery has blanketed our position.

SOURCE: Report of Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Center, Air Section - from a cook in a mobile unit.

TACTICAL

"Sure, I've seen plenty strafing. The equipment loss is the greatest. One could say that strafing and low-level bombing of our roads is a direct attack against our supply organizations and because your planes won that phase of the war in Southern France, they won the battle of France itself."

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War, a former railway clerk. This Prisoner of War had questioned some of his comrades who had returned from leave in Germany.

TACTICAL

Prisoner of war learned through his friends that during the first attack on the Munich railway sheds early in 1944, forty electric locomotives were damaged when the shed was demolished.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Extract from a letter from VIENNA dated 5 November 1944.

TACTICAL

"...Today has been a terrible Sunday. We lay flat in our cellars; and bombs rained down. The school in the LEITERMAYERGASSE has been severely damaged; the cinema in the KREUZGASSE has gone completely. So have the houses in the ANTONIEGASSE towards the GUERTEL. The Headquarters of the Air Command (Luftgaukommando) and the hospital have also been severely hit. A lunatic asylum is a sanatorium compared to this. . ."

SOURCE: A German Infantry sergeant captured in Southern France, November 1944.

TACTICAL

"We used to have fighter-bombers coming over from Corsica and I used to think they were doing target practice the way they shot up our vehicles. Later we learned to light a tin of gasoline as soon as they came over. The blaze made the pilots think that the vehicle had already been hit by another bomber. Those big two-engined planes were feared more than anything else because they dropped their eggs so damned accurately. In the headquarters company we once had twenty-three killed and many more wounded as the result of an air raid. Our own planes, of course, were nowhere to be seen. We must have been betrayed on that occasion, too, because they went straight for our gasoline tins and scored a direct hit."

SOURCE: German Document captured on the 5th Army Front in Italy. This Document had been issued by Supreme Command, Army Group B.

TACTICAL

Enemy No. 1 is the hostile air force, which because of its absolute superiority tries to destroy the spearheads of our attacks and our artillery through fighter-bomber attacks and bomb carpets and to render movements in the rear areas impossible. The armament industry at home and the High Command are trying with all possible means to render ineffective, for the time being, this air superiority, at least for the purpose of supporting our actions. During this time of the year our attacking troops profit by fog and the danger of icing of the aircraft. Everywhere the troops will employ camouflage, and at every halt they will dig in deeply (troops, weapons and vehicles).

TOP SECRET

SOURCE Twenty-two year old deserter from an anti-tank company captured near BOLOGNA in November 1944.

TACTICAL

Prisoner: "Our greatest fear here in Italy was your aircraft. It was impossible to move about behind the front during the daytime; we could only do it at night. The assault guns pulled out and we were left with only anti-tank guns. Sometimes the Americans would concentrate all their fire on one particular gun of ours, but the first round then the second would be a direct hit. Apart from that you also had your spotter planes circling round at about 50 meters."

Interrogator: "Didn't you fire at them?"

Prisoner: "Yes, but quite suddenly two of them would turn up and give you a burst of machine gun fire and then disappear. Later twelve fighters and two recce planes would appear and you wouldn't know where to turn first. If we had shot at them, it would have been the end of us. All we could do was to take cover. The American planes were out to disorganize our supplies and they made a good job of it, too. If one of our vehicles so much as moved, it would be shot to smithereens. We hadn't received any ammo or food for weeks towards the end. We never engaged any single planes - they would have just riddled us with cannon fire. You had an Air Force, but we never saw a single one of our own planes."

SOURCE: A Polish Escapee, formerly a Private in the artillery, describes the effectiveness of air attack during his unit's retreat from Southern France.

TACTICAL

"On the night of 21 August the whole regiment withdrew from SETE and headed northward for the German border. During the night of August 22/23, about 0200, the first Allied plane appeared. It observed our unit

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Polish Escapee, formerly a Private in the artillery, describes the effectiveness of air attack during his unit's retreat from Southern France.

TACTICAL

in spite of the darkness and dropped several bombs near the gun carriages. The attacks became more numerous between LYON and BELFORT. During the day, traffic was almost completely paralyzed by American planes. Marching was possible only at night between 2000 and 0600. From NIMES on, I witnessed daily attacks. Motorized units had to withdraw during the day too, but were attacked daily by from eight to ten dive bombers. No bombs were dropped but strafing attacks were deadly and effective. On the road from NIMES to BELFORT burned-up military trucks could be seen constantly at intervals from 50 to 100 meters. Most of them were supply trucks which had been loaded with gasoline, oil, munitions and food."

"It was remarkable to note that just those trucks loaded with gas and oil were most commonly recognized, attacked and destroyed."

"During our three-week withdrawal, our unit lost many horses and a number of trucks, for after September 1st we were also attacked during the day by American tanks and infantry. When the noise of air-planes could be heard in the distance, correct convoy intervals could not be maintained. A great confusion arose, and the carriages could not maintain the prescribed 'attack interval' of about 100 meters. As soon as the planes could be seen (usually six to nine), the soldiers all ran into the field and hunted for shelter under the trees and nearby buildings. The drivers were forbidden to leave their horses, but when the danger became greater, they too ran for cover. An order was then issued that every soldier leaving his horses during an attack would be shot."

"On the 4th day of our withdrawal, I saw results of an air attack on an east battalion composed only of Russian volunteers. The attack occurred at about 1800. When we passed an hour later, we saw 26 dead horses, wrecked wagons and ten badly wounded soldiers. Along the entire route of our unit, the damage done by American planes was terrific. Thousands of trucks, hundreds of horses and wagons were destroyed. Several motorized units lost all their vehicles in a few minutes and had to take horses and wagons from the French in order to proceed further."

SOURCE: Luftwaffe Lieutenant shot down in the Mediterranean in September 1944.

TACTICAL

"Our first mistake was not to attack Britain after the collapse of France; our second, that we didn't occupy Malta; our third, that we pushed forward too far into Russia."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An Infantry Lieutenant on leave witnesses an American raid on the airdrome at BENTHEIM, Germany.

TACTICAL

"We saw the big stuff coming over and there were fighters too. My old man said they were ours, but they looked to me damned like Americans. The leave train couldn't go any further as the line had been cut. I saw clouds of smoke and I knew immediately that it must be the airdrome. We had to wait a long time, so I went out to have a look. It was really shattering. Of all the fighters which had been standing there ready to take off, only one had escaped damage. The warning had been given and all the fighters had been alerted, but then the American fighters arrived and wouldn't let them take off; they set a couple on fire. Then the bombers came on the scene and knocked everything to hell. Five hours after the attack, the place was still burning merrily."

SOURCE: A U-boat wireless operator captured in Southern France.

TACTICAL

"We were once on the way from TOULON to NICE when a reconnaissance plane flew over us. We reported it to the Flotilla, and they ordered us to put back at once into TOULON. We asked for fighter escort. About half an hour later, we saw about forty bombers right overhead. We altered course, and at last our fighter escort came along: a couple of seaplanes - that's all the fighter escort they sent us!"

SOURCE: Twenty-seven year old regular captured in France.

TACTICAL

"I should say we lost 30,000 men in the south of France. But France is one long story of betrayal; that's why things went so fast. Even at that, we could have held had it not been for the planes. They were everywhere. Whole battalions lay helpless before them. But for that terror, we should still be in MARSEILLES."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A German infantry Corporal captured on 8th Army Front.

TACTICAL

"It's the fault of the American and English soldiers that the war in Italy is lasting such a terribly long time. They always shoot like mad, but haven't the stamina to hold out for the last five minutes."

SOURCE: A German Air Force Corporal from HANNOVER.

TACTICAL

"From the time we went to the Strategical Reconnaissance School to the time we got to the depot we lost half the crew, all on account of various engine defects. None of them ever got to the front. And here in Italy we've had five different crews within a month - I make the sixth - three because of engine trouble and three through enemy attacks."

SOURCE: Prisoner of war captured after a severe barrage at BAGNOCAVALLO, Italy, 14 December 1944.

TACTICAL

"But it was simply madness on the part of our division commander to order that the position must be held at whatever the cost. And there is simply nothing that we can do against the volume of weapons that you have. Tanks are the only thing in the face of fire like that, but we simply don't have them."

SOURCE: Infantry Lieutenant who had been trained for the invasion of England.

TACTICAL

"But we tried to invade England. I was there myself. All the boats were ready. We carried out landing exercises. Everything was betrayed, however, and we were bombed out. We had already been issued life-belts and seven days' rations. Hans Niels had already composed songs for the French and English victories."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Major General, commander of an infantry division, captured at KNOCKE, Holland, 2 November 1944.

TACTICAL

"The Allies (in their attack on WALCHEREN) had everything planned to perfection. Many of our battalion commanders could take a leaf out of their book as far as preparations are concerned. And as for their radio equipment, it was superb."

SOURCE: Corporal, anti-tank unit, captured at TRIBIANO, Italy, 27 September 1944.

TACTICAL

"American raids in April completely destroyed the Messerschmitt Works at REGENSBURG. The first time nothing was hit. The second raid knocked out half of the plant. And the third time nothing was left. We were amazed. The Messerschmitt Works was so well concealed in a forest that only a resident of REGENSBURG would have guessed that it was there."

SOURCE: Thirty-three year old Flying Officer from the 51st Air Signals Regiment taken prisoner at AGAY, France, 15 August 1944.

TACTICAL

"These Allied bridgeheads are rather like the early states of pregnancy; they never get any smaller but go on swelling."

SOURCE: A Corporal of ordnance captured south of FLORENCE, 4 August 1944.

TACTICAL

"At first we were south of SALONIKA. It was a shocking sort of life: the food was very bad, and we were attacked by partisans the whole time. Then we came to the south of France. On the first day there we had 45 casualties in the Workshop alone. Our losses during the occupation were very heavy. Then we came to Italy. We were in CALABRIA; then POTENZA and ORTONA. We were usually about one and a half kilometers behind the front in a wood whenever possible. Every night we went forward to repair assault guns. The shelling was worse at night than during the day.....And there was

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Corporal of ordnance captured south of FLORENCE, 4 August 1944. (cont'd)

TACTICAL

never a sign of our own Air Force. Since I've been in Italy, I haven't seen a single German aircraft. Not one. And we seem to have very little anti-aircraft. I saw 400 Allied bombers come over at the beachhead. The bombing lasted for a whole hour. Our headquarters was just behind LITTORIA; there was a huge ammunition dump about 6 kilometers to the north. The Americans bombed it all day. It was an incredible sight. How our gunners cursed! With the destruction of the dump, they were rationed to 5 rounds per gun per day. Yes, the Allies managed that one pretty well. That was one of the chief reasons why they eventually managed to break out.....I tell you, it's impossible to wage war without an Air Force.

SOURCE: Infantry Sergeant captured near FORLI, 14 November 1944.

TACTICAL

"It's the air war which worries the ordinary soldier more than anything else."

SOURCE: Infantry officer captured in Southern France, 17 August 1944.

TACTICAL

"Your fighter-bombers finished me. Only three of my men were left alive, and each of those had wounds of some kind."

SOURCE: Engineer captured at TREQUANTA, 2 July 1944.

TACTICAL

"We had erected four steel bridges with strong supports. They are about 30 centimeters below the level of the water, so that they can't be spotted from the air. When the ordinary bridges have to be blown before we withdraw, these other bridges can be used. We learned how to put them together in Russia. They carry tanks up to 60 tons."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry Corporal captured by 8th Army,  
15 December 1944.

TACTICAL

"We had men in our unit who had only had about four days' training before being put into the line. My No 1, for instance, had no idea at all how to fire a grenade launcher or a machine gun."

SOURCE: Young infantry Corporal captured at FORLI,  
Italy, 8 November 1944.

TACTICAL

"What I can't understand is why the Americans and the English don't get on with it and attack properly. For instance, in my sector we didn't have any defenses at all. I had to hold a sector of 300 meters with thirteen men and we had nothing behind us. As for our weapons, all we had was one MG and some grenade launchers - if the English had come along with a few tanks and some planes they could have taken the lot."

SOURCE: German Air Force Corporal, captured in South-  
ern France, September 1944.

TACTICAL

"It's the air war that has finished us completely. Everything smashed to pieces. It's actually immaterial whether there were one thousand or three thousand bombers, the results were always the same. We knew that the air arm was a quick way to wage war, but the Allies showed us how really to use it."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Colonel, Police President of STRASBOURG,  
France, where he was taken prisoner 23 Nov. 44.

TACTICAL

"For some time now, whenever there was an air raid we were simply helpless. Because of a lack of fuel, I had to postpone my mission. That happened twice. Never before had I experienced such chaos. All the telephone exchanges were destroyed and I had to get my car myself. The houses on both sides of mine were destroyed."

SOURCE: A Luftwaffe Fighter Pilot captured in Southern France, 13 August 1944.

TACTICAL

"When those four-engined machines don't come over in such masses and you can go at them singly, they're very easy to bring down, starting systematically with the rear. The approach flight is not so dangerous; it's only dangerous when they fire at you after you've passed them."

"On one occasion 70 four-engined bombers attacked MUNICH and not a single one was allowed to get back. Seventy isn't a great number; we can easily cope with it if we've got a few fighters. But when they come over in hundreds, there's nothing we can do."

"Today the whole war turns on the fact that we haven't enough fighters."

SOURCE: Austrian Private First Class, comments on accuracy of the bombing of 10 and 13 September at ULM, Germany.

TACTICAL

"The MAGIRUS Works in the western suburb of SOEFLINGEN which at the time of the attack were making 25 ton trucks for the Wehrmacht were completely destroyed along with all those vehicles parked in the works yards, ready for the road. Only one chimney stack remained intact."

"The adjacent houses were hardly touched and only 25 civilians were killed through the collapse of a slit trench."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A German Air Force Lieutenant captured at VANITSA, Greece 4 November 1944.

TACTICAL

"I'll never forget when I got to LEIPZIG once. I felt quite faint at what I saw there. There were bodies that had fallen all over the streets, laying and sitting, and women and children screaming; piles of dead. I've seen some hellish things in HAMBURG, but nothing as bad as that."

SOURCE: Prisoner of war who witnessed an air attack on the Harbor at GENOA, 4 September 1944.

TACTICAL

"Allied planes attacking GENOA Harbor on the morning of 4 September 1944, damaged beyond repair or sank 35 naval craft, including 4 destroyers and 6 U-boats. The 'ORANIENWERFT' (Oranien Shipyards) was hit and destroyed. I heard that 2000 German and Italian sailors and marines were killed or wounded as a result of this attack. Many sailors were trapped on sinking ships or burned to death because they were ordered to stay on the boats in case of an Allied attack."

SOURCE: Infantryman captured near BORLETTO, Italy, 15 November 1944.

TACTICAL

"In May or June 1944, near ALLBONA, I saw Allied planes destroy a train containing 500 of their prisoners, mostly American and British. A wave of fighters came by just as the train was crossing a bridge, and the train stopped immediately right over the middle of the span. Then the fighters returned and strafed it from one end to the other. I don't think very many got out alive."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner of war who witnessed an air attack on the Harbor at GENOA, 4 September 1944

TACTICAL

"Allied planes attacking GENOA Harbor on the morning of 4 September 1944, damaged beyond repair or sank 35 naval craft, including 4 destroyers and 6 U-boats. The 'ORANIENSHEDT' (Oranien Shipyards) was hit and destroyed. I heard that 2000 German and Italian sailors and marines were killed or wounded as a result of this attack. Many sailors were trapped on sinking ships or burned to death because they were ordered to stay on the boats in case of an Allied attack."

SOURCE: Infantryman captured near BORETTO, Italy, 15 November 1944

TACTICAL

"In May or June 1944, near ALLERONA, I saw Allied planes destroy a train containing 500 of their prisoners, mostly Americans and British. A wave of fighters came by just as the train was crossing a bridge, and the train stopped immediately right over the middle of the span. Then the fighters returned and strafed it from one end to the other. I don't think very many got out alive."

SOURCE: German Second Lieutenant captured near BAGNACAVALLLO, 15 December 1944

TACTICAL

"What's the use of having tanks if we can't use them when and where we please? We can't use any of the roads for fear of the enemy's air force!"

SOURCE: German Major General captured near MONS, Belgium, 4 Sept 1944.

TACTICAL

"MONS, in Belgium, was in a hell of a condition. Those American fighter-bombers smashed everything up in half-hourly attacks, and with such accuracy of aim! The vehicles were all smashed, and in my last attempt to break through, which I made during the night, I couldn't make headway because the lanes and roads were all blocked with horses and carts."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Second Lieutenant captured MONTE POGGIOLQ,  
12 November 1944.

TACTICAL

"From the BRENNER to VERONA we were held up for five days because those four-engine jobs came along and bombed us the whole time. They bombed the point where the road runs parallel to the railway. They hit it good and proper. We had people working on the damage for a couple of days, and then they came along again and smashed it all up for the second time. They scored a direct hit on a train that was standing in a siding and there were forty killed. All three hundred of us used to go up into the mountains in the day and come back in the evening.

"There was a tunnel under the track which was supposed to be fairly safe, and the battalion office and the CC's belongings were brought in there. However, when the bombers came one bomb dropped right in front of the tunnel and everything was smashed up. We managed to dig out the battalion office stuff, but we couldn't rescue the Italians or the CC's things. That kind of hit is the most dangerous. Troop #9 had nine killed like that and troop #7 had twenty-three killed."

SOURCE: Officer of a German AA battery captured by the  
Maquis in Southern France, September 1944

TACTICAL

"I never felt any anxiety when attacked by the Spitfires, either the new or the old type. They only have one bomb and are almost unarmored. Defense against them is pretty easy. But your new fighters, the Thunderbolts, have incredibly thick armor and carry three bombs. They attack with real determination, coming right down to 60 meters, and drop their bombs with extraordinary accuracy. A few days ago they attacked my troop and the bombs fell within 5 meters of one of the guns. By a miracle they failed to explode. Your Mustangs are pretty good, too, but the Thunderbolt, with its three bombs and its rocket gun, is the best. . . ."

SOURCE: German SS Captain, captured near BOLOGNA,  
12 October 1944.

TACTICAL

"During the last two years our war industry hasn't maintained its original output. If it had - that is to say - before the loss of the Upper Silesian industrial areas - we shouldn't be in the position we're in today. Instead of production having been speeded up in the last two years, it has fallen considerably. If one looks at the present situation logically, one has to admit that the odds now are ten to one against a German victory."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Two Austrian Privates captured at Sector 68,  
near MONTESE, Italy 3 March 1945

TACTICAL

"We were new replacements in an artillery battery, having arrived on 1 March 1945. At 0600 on the morning of 2 March, heavy artillery fire began to harass us. At 0700 fighter-bombers began their attacks using first bombs, both fragmentation and incendiaries, then machine gun fire. All men abandoned their positions and fled for shelter as far as 2 or 3 kilometers away. No one, officer or enlisted man, returned to the position before nightfall. On the morning of 3 March artillery began at 0600 again, followed by fighter bombers at 0700. We fled to shelter as before and the attacks continued well on into the day. Infantry followed the air attacks and their advance resulted in our capture.

"While in our position we had orders not to fire on anything unless directly attacked. We never fired on liaison planes because to do so resulted in an immediate and heavy concentration of artillery fire on our position. But we feared fighter-bomber attacks more than anything else as we could dig in against artillery fire but there is no protection against fighter-bombers. They are very demoralizing and an infantry advance right after a strafing attack is bound to succeed."

SOURCE: Austrian Private captured on the Fifth Army Front,  
1 February 1945.

TACTICAL

"The ordeal of our retreat from ROME was unbelievably ghastly. Every hundred meters or so along the entire stretch from below ROME to PERUGIA, we passed a burning auto or wrecked truck. The Jabos (fighter-bombers) were constantly strafing and bombing the roads, sweeping down on us before we were aware of their presence. When we were able to catch a motor vehicle for a short distance, transportation was almost as slow as marching. Every few minutes we had to stop, jump out, and conceal ourselves in the fields. The utmost confusion reigned among soldiers separated from their units during the flight. In one day alone there were over 3,000 soldiers in TERMI, looking vainly for their companies. In 12 days we had nothing to eat except half a piece of mouldy bread every other day. For a whole month afterwards I was too sick to digest meat."

SOURCE: German Second Lieutenant captured near BAGNACAVALLLO,  
15 December 1944.

TACTICAL.

"During the withdrawal from CASSINO our battalion lost seventy out of a total of ninety tanks. The idiotic things that were done with our tanks at that place are absolutely unimaginable. The enemy was using several of those flying observation planes (Piper Cubs) of his in our sector. We couldn't shoot them down because our infantry knew only too well that by firing at them they would draw the enemy's artillery fire to their positions. I've also heard that our 2 cm. bullets don't penetrate their fuselage. And you should see how quickly those little planes can turn around and make a dash for home."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Lt. General captured at BAILLIEUL, France,  
20 August 1944

TACTICAL

"On 22 November of last year I was present during that very heavy attack on BERLIN. I was staying at the Eden Hotel, and at four in the morning the Aquarium opposite was burning. I got hold of a police officer as I was trying to get to the personnel branch at LUBEN. That drive - my God! I told the police officer that I'd go back to STALINGRAD for that was preferable to BERLIN. The awful thing was that the whole of BERLIN was ablaze - a tornado of fire with sparks flying all over the place."

SOURCE: German prisoner of war on the Fifth Army Front  
in December 1944.

TACTICAL

"On 9 September 1944 I was aboard a train with my unit on the way to the front at GENOA. We were in the yards at VALENZA and at about 1600 hours we were attacked by fighter-bombers. I was on the 20mm. flak defense detail. We were attacked from all sides and I was knocked out by bombs falling near me. The fighters delayed their attack just long enough to enable everyone to escape from the train and, although there were two direct hits, only one man was killed. Ammunition wagons were destroyed and the whole yard was in an uproar. The attack lasted about fifteen minutes. The train left VALENZA next morning and we were attacked again at TORTONA. Everyone was quite angry that we were being moved during the day when attacks were being made. Our officers left the train and went by car to GENOA."

SOURCE: German Corporal, infantryman, deserted to  
Partisans at TERMI, August 1944

TACTICAL

"I was driving in a convoy with my unit between AREZZO and FLORENCE in February 1944 on the way to NETTUNO. There were about 800 men in 80 vehicles. We were attacked by 36 four-engine bombers from about 3000 meters and scattered to cover. We lost 26 vehicles, 40 men were injured and 20 killed. It took us about an hour to reassemble the convoy. From then on we had a radio party to warn of further attacks."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Air Ministry Weekly Intelligence Summary No. 272.

TRANSPORTATION

Travellers from Southern Germany tell of unusually long delays in railway traffic caused by the air attacks. Express trains frequently have to stop for several hours in the middle of the line, or are unable to go on because the tracks have been destroyed. Since the beginning of this week traffic to STUTTGART has been completely suspended; journeys which normally take a few hours now often take several days because passengers frequently have to get off between stations and continue for several kilometers on foot to catch the next train. Passenger traffic operates mainly in the day, while goods traffic is confined almost exclusively to the night because darkness is to a certain degree a protection against attacks from the air.

SOURCE: Prisoner of War captured by 8th Army, 17 November 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

Railroad transportation in Germany and Northern Italy has been so disrupted that it recently took a German prisoner of war eleven days by train to cover an airline distance of 600 miles. The prisoner of war left SCHWERIN (east of Berlin) 28 October 1944 and did not reach his destination until 8 November. At the Po River he transferred to bus, ferried across, and continued to LUGO and FORLI.

SOURCE: Technician in a motorized electrical repair unit, captured in South France, August 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"We had four trucks and were approaching the crest of a gradual rise. We had just had a warning of aircraft in the vicinity just a few minutes before, but another order to proceed came immediately thereafter and we were hardly in high gear when the attack came. The speed was the awful thing. There were six planes. In the first attack we left our vehicles so quickly that the driver of one left his vehicle while it was still in motion, letting it roll backwards into a ditch where it burst into flames. In the second attack, two of the others were burned out from hits in the gas tanks. No one was hurt, but as the result of losing our vehicles, we were all captured."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A private, six months' service, passenger in a motor transport convoy in the vicinity of MONTEBELLI, 29 August 1944. Statement made 11 September 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"We were about 150 vehicles spread over approximately 20 kilometers of roadway. Fifteen to twenty aircraft appeared as out of the ground, and in less than a minute at least one-third of the vehicles were useless."

SOURCE: A German Officer, September 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"Early on 13 August I received a consignment of 7,000 liters of petrol. On the morning of the 14th I telephoned that I could not transport it as I had no trucks and couldn't get any."

SOURCE: German prisoner of war captured 1 November 44.

TRANSPORTATION

As of the end of September 1944, it took a German infantry unit between 12 and 13 days to go by rail from VERONA via MILAN, a distance of 186 rail-road miles. Blasted bridges were the main source of delay.

SOURCE: Prisoner of War captured 29 October 1944 on the Italian Front.

TRANSPORTATION

As of early October 1944 it took a German army unit 10 days to cover the distance from East Prussia to a rear position in Italy, approximately 1000 rail miles. Route taken by a battalion of Panzer Grenadiers, eventually used as infantry replacements, follows:

INSTEURG, ALLENSTEIN, TORUN, POSEN (2 or 3 days), GLOGAU, GÜRLITZ, DRESDEN (5th day), CHEMNITZ, PLAUEN, REGENSBURG, LANDSHUT, NEUMARKT, MUHLDOBF, ROSENHAIN, WÜRG, (7th day), INNSBRUCK, BRENNER, VERONA (8th day), VICENZA (9th day). At VICENZA the unit entrucked and moved south. Motor transport moved only at night.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War captured 14 October 1944 in North Italy.

TRANSPORTATION

In September 1944 it took one German infantry unit seven (7) days to cover by rail the distance from BRESLAU to UDINE (via Vienna and Villach), a distance of approximately 475 rail miles, a rate of 65 miles each day.

SOURCE: German Pfc who deserted CASTEL NUOVO, Italy 24 November 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"There I was all alone on the road - not another vehicle in sight - carrying 32 barrels of petrol on my truck from ALADRIA to ANACNE. Suddenly out of nowhere, I was attacked by an American fighter. I jumped just in time. But the petrol burned and so did the truck. . . I didn't think that they'd attack a single vehicle.

SOURCE: Hungarian leaders of the resistance movement who fled Hungary 9 December 1944, seeking to establish relations with Allied military leaders.

TRANSPORTATION

After the heavy bombings of rail communications in September 1944, 70% to 80% of Hungarian rail traffic was disrupted. After three weeks of repair, 50% of the normal facilities had been restored.

The Germans have stationed picked railroad crews who can be rushed to bombed areas. They always work day and night until a damaged line is restored. The informant insists that to come back and disrupt repairs would cause the greatest possible damage inasmuch as these vital "trouble shooter" units would likely be hit.

Previous planning resulted in only a two-day delay in railroad traffic after the BUDAPEST railroad bridge was destroyed. Long before the attack, feeder lines from the main railroad line had been laid to the Horthy road bridge with a streetcar crossing. After the attack, it was only necessary to tie the streetcar tracks to the feeder lines before traffic could be resumed. However, traffic was still considerably delayed as it was only possible to take two cars over these lighter tracks at a time. A shuttle service was arranged with several small engines handling about 40% of the traffic the south bridge formerly handled.

In early fall, the trains bringing damaged planes from the eastern front required three weeks to make the trip from BESSARABIA to HATVAN due to track and depot damage. (A distance of 380 air line miles.)

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German armored force private captured south-east of BOLOGNA, 23 October 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

In September 1944 it took a German armored force unit - traveling without heavy equipment - 7 days to go by rail from MUNICH to VERONA, an air line distance of 194 miles. Route followed: MUNICH, ROSENHEIM, WOERGL, INNSBRUCK, BRENNER PASS, VERONA.. Unit waited 1½ days in marshalling yards at WOERGL.

SOURCE: Documents obtained in the Luftwaffe Headquarters in Rumania early in September 1944 (See OSS Report GB 1852, WIS #13)

TRANSPORTATION

GB-1613. Effect of US bombing of railroad transport in Rumania. The general effect was to reduce the capacity of the railroads by about 45% as result of the bombings between April and 23 August 1944. During the same period locomotive repair capacity was reduced to 30% of normal, but military traffic was not affected. At BRATSOV the attacks reduced the capacity of the railroad yards by 50%.

SOURCE: Effects of Allied Air Raids on Rumanian Railroad System 4 April - 18 August 1944. (Memorandum prepared by the Rumanian General Staff on request of a member of the Research and Analysis Branch of the OSS.)

TRANSPORTATION

During the period 4 April - 18 August 1944, the following railroad equipment was damaged by air raids in Rumania:

157 Locomotives  
619 Passenger Cars  
3,010 Goods Cars  
1,525 Tank Cars  
10 Automotors

The repairing of the above equipment required 7,669,900 labor-hours, which in comparison with the total working capacity of the State Railway Workshops, represents a percentage of 26.6%.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Prisoner of War (Gefreiter (Pfc)),  
captured in North Italy in October 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

In September 1944, it took this German prisoner of war two weeks to go from WAGRAM (in the neighborhood of Vienna) by rail to the BRENNER PASS, and eight days more to travel on foot from the BRENNER PASS to GENOA. (From WAGRAM to GENOA is approximately 500 miles by rail or 400 by air, an average of 23 miles per day.) Prisoner of war ascribed the slow rate of travel to the effectiveness of Allied air activity, which clogged the lines and routes still operating.

SOURCE: German prisoner of war, Obergefreiter (Cpl),  
captured near FLORENCE, 24 September 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

Waiting for bridges in North Italy to be replaced was given by this prisoner of war as the reason it took him a month to travel by rail from VELKA, Czechoslovakia to FAENZA, Italy, in August 1944. His journey, through KLAGENFURT and VILLACH, was approximately 700 miles by rail or 450 miles by air.

SOURCE: Gefreiter (Pfc) in the Medical Corps,  
captured 18 September 1944 at BARAGAZZA,  
Italy.

TRANSPORTATION

"We were a column of 60 vehicles drawn by 240 horses, carrying fodder from FAENZA to FORLI. Three American fighters caught us on the open road. There was no way to save the column. We ran into the bushes and hugged the ground. They killed 50 horses and wounded many others. It took us 5 days to replace them. They should not have permitted us to travel by day. One is never safe from fighters. . . . But then I was in CASSINO when the Americans bombed it. Nothing could have been more terrible than that."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Polish soldier who recently deserted from the 1st Battalion, 281st Regiment, 148th Infantry Division.

TRANSPORTATION

The following is the itinerary of the above unit as of the end of October 1944.

Prisoner of war states: "We were told we were going back to Germany.. First we marched from PIOVERA (about 7 miles northwest of Alessandria) to SALE, where we were supposed to entrain; but since the station had been bombed the night before, we went on for another 21 miles and entrained at a point about 18 miles south of PIEVE DEL CAIRO and started off towards PARMA. We traveled only at night and it took us six days to reach ROTTOFRENO (about 40 miles by air from Piovera). In all this time we were only fed once. At 0700 in ROTTOFRENO we were surprised by two fighter bombers and although we scattered in the fields, we had 16 casualties. The wounded were taken to MILAN in Italian armored cars. Meanwhile we went into town and begged food from the civilian population. That night we went on to PARMA, which was badly damaged. The station was not functioning, so we marched three miles to get on another train. We didn't go to Germany after all, but to the front on the coast near CARRARA."

SOURCE: German prisoner of war captured near BOLOGNA on 20 October 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"They said there'd been a raid on the Brenner. So our train waited in WORGL (assembly point for Brenner-bound troop trains) for three days. Then when we got down to the Po, we found that all the bridges had been bombed out of commission."

SOURCE: Prisoner of war from HAMBURG captured in North Italy in November 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

Prisoner of war states that on his return from a furlough in Germany in June 1944, he was taken from VERONA to PERUGIA by truck, as Allied bombings had rendered the railroad inoperable.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner of war who deserted near SOCCIA, Italy, on 23 November 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

Prisoner of war who arrived in Italy in September, stated that it took him 9 days to travel by rail from VERONA to GENOA, a distance of 190 rail miles. By day they halted in tunnels and proceeded only by night.

SOURCE: German prisoner of war, Gefreiter (Pfc) captured at COPENHAGEN, 23 November 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"Gasoline, war's greatest weapon, is almost gone. Even the vehicles for transportation of troops are horse-drawn. Only high ranking officials use motor transport. Soldiers march miles a day in the endeavor to save what gasoline is left."

SOURCE: Polish escapee interviewed 23 December 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

In September 1944 it took a German infantry unit 12 days to go by train from WILDFLECKEN to GENOA, an airline distance of 430 miles, or a rail distance of 660 miles. Route taken was WILDFLECKEN, ROSENHAIN, WÖRGL, BRENNER. As soon as the train reached the Italian side of the BRENNER, it and the two trains ahead of it were attacked by four U.S. fighter-bombers. RESULT: two trains destroyed, one damaged. There was a four-day delay to clear the tracks. On the fifth day the train had proceeded only 24 miles when it was attacked again. Seven cars were burned. Troops detrained and entrucked for VERONA where they entrained for GENOA. The rest of the trip took three days in the course of which they were attacked twice and suffered a collision which was also directly traceable to air attack.

SOURCE: Intelligent Austrian deserter captured near CASOLA, Italy, 22 October 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"Because of the air attacks, the freight trains between LA SPEZIA and PARMA operate only at night. Lay-overs during the day are made in tunnels. In most cases the tunnels at PONTREMOLI, BORGO VAL DI TARO and FORNOVO DI TARO are used. There are usually three or four trains in the 8 kilometer-long tunnel at BORGO VAL DI TARO during the hours of daylight."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Major of the 3rd Battalion, 1059 Grenadier Regiment captured at ROCCA DI APPA, Italy, 2 June 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"I had to use five different vehicles when I went up to the Regiment on one occasion and they broke down one after the other. Our trucks never do run properly. Petrol used to give out very often, too, and we either had to get out and push or stop another truck, but they were always a bit sticky about letting us have any juice because they never had enough themselves. Then air kept escaping out of the tires, and we had to get out every hour and pump. On one occasion, we were given a truck which was supposed to be in perfect condition and ready for the road, but there was no speedometer, the brakes didn't work, there was no rear light and no headlamps. It did happen to have an engine, but after about a mile there was a colossal bang and it refused to budge so we had to get out and walk!"

SOURCE: Infantry Private captured near BOLOGNA, 8 December 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

"Railroad transportation in Northern Italy is so badly disrupted that travel by train is impractical. In a recent trip from MILAN to VERONA we had to dismount three times and go by foot to another train because the bridges were out."

SOURCE: Prisoner of war employed in the railroad repair shops, KATOWICE, (Upper Silesia) until March 1944.

TRANSPORTATION

Between April 1943 and March 1944 the number of damaged locomotives and railroad cars brought into the workshops at KATOWICE increased almost 50%.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Private in a special purpose battalion is  
skeptical of German anti-aircraft.

AIR RAID DAMAGE

"They boast about the number of enemy planes they've shot down after a raid and the little damage done, but they don't tell us about how people ran about helpless in the streets in Western Germany all ablaze from phosphorous bombs and that the SS had to shoot them because they didn't know what else to do."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Brigadier General captured near ZABERN,  
22 November 1944.

AMERICANS

"I always thought the Americans didn't know why they were in Europe. I thought it was all a matter of economics. But I really believe the reasons are ideological. They consider this New Order as a disease and are fighting to prevent their people from being infected to protect the lives of their sons."

SOURCE: German Corporal captured near FAENZA, Italy,  
16 December 1944.

AMERICANS

"This American mountain division isn't bad at all. When they first came they were completely green--they sent off patrols of thirty or forty men. But in three weeks they'd learned all there is to know. And what men they are! We caught one once and I had to interrogate him. He was taller than I, almost twice as broad and as strong as a bull. I was really afraid he'd break down the dug-out. Once they know a little more about fighting they'll be marvelous. They're real mountain troops, too. When one of them flashes past our positions he draws fire from the whole line. Very neat, isn't it? And half an hour later we get a hell of a barrage right bang on our positions. Before their attack they marked every machine gun position we had on their maps. Otherwise they'd never taken our positions so easily."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German SS Captain, captured near BOLOGNA,  
12 October 1944.

ARMS AND THE MAN

"It's very sad when one has come to a stage where human lives are less important than equipment. The Americans don't sacrifice their men. They say that it takes twenty years to produce a soldier but equipment can be produced more quickly. The Fuehrer once said that the soldier was the deciding factor. It's false! Materiel decides. A good soldier with weapons in his hands - yes. But without? - useless!"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Berliner captured in North Italy in October 1944.

ATROCITIES

"I was one of the first troops to enter LEMBERG (Lwów). The state prison had been set afire, and of the 10,000 inmates, fully half were burned alive, mostly Russians and Poles. The bodies, heaped high on trucks and wagons were being carted away. I don't know who did it - we or the Russians - I prefer to believe it was the enemy."

SOURCE: U-Boat sailor captured at TOULON, France, September 1944.

ATROCITIES

"Our boats often attack Red Cross ships. Twice I've been aboard when it happened. A chap called Werner from KIEL told me that his boat had actual orders to do the same thing. Stukas attacked them from CRETE, too."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An Army Lieutenant looks at Yugoslavia.

BALKANS

"In the Balkans you can only get things done by playing off one leader against the other. For instance, Nedic was on our side and Michailovitch on Tito's. Then Michailovitch quarreled with Tito and with England and now Michailovitch has joined Nadic. And the sad part is that Tito grows stronger with every Russian advance. Our only consolation is that they are destroying one another."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Sergeant captured on the Fifth Army Front.  
February 1945.

BERLIN

"Berlin in early January was sheer chaos. Hordes of refugees from the Russians had crowded the city, and there was not enough food or shelter for all of them. Children froze to death on the streets. It was impossible to evacuate many of these people by train because of the constant dive-bomber attacks.

"On top of this came the terrible raids on the city. On January 3 the bombers came over about noon, when the crowd was the greatest. The air raid shelters were packed and jammed, and great masses of people had to be shut out without protection from the falling bombs."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Lieutenant of Ordnance captured near ROME,  
4 June 1944.

THE BIG THREE

"Churchill is now the greatest man of modern times. He can be compared with Wellington, whereas Hitler's achievements can only be compared with Napoleon's. Do you remember the caricatures of Chamberlain and his umbrella? Funny how these British must always poke fun at somebody - not it's Churchill with his cigar. Stalin is the best of all and least talked about. He's very quiet. Roosevelt, of course, is a reflected image of Capitalism. I wouldn't mind being in his shoes."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Air Force Corporal shot down near  
ANCONA, Italy, 9 August 1944.

BLACK MARKET

"I used to do quite a profitable trade selling our cigarettes to the Italians. A packet of those Yugoslav cigarettes used to cost us 25 lire, and we sold them for 425 lire. But of course we simply had to do it. After all deductions had been made, my monthly pay amounted to only 545 lire, and now everything has become so much more expensive. The rise in prices is quite unbelievable. In the old days a liter of 'Branntwein' cost only 1 lire and now it costs 5 lire; and a pair of silk stockings, which used to cost about 15-20 lire, costs the better part of 60. Yes, everything is almost five times as expensive as it used to be."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An Air Force communications Sergeant captured at AGAY, France, 15 August 1944.

CHAMPAGNE

"In May 1943 we inspected a champagne storage depot that had been hewn into limestone rocks. They still had a stock of sixteen and a half million bottles. Eighty percent of their production went to the Army. After the fall of France, Goering got 500 eight-liter bottles of champagne as a token of gratitude from France because the German Air Force had protected her cities."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An SS man admits he was drafted.

CONSCRIPTION - SS

"It's incredible what the Germans did in ALSACE. One day, an Army order came out for all Christians to join the SS and all Jews to go to the labor service. In our company there was only one volunteer, all the rest were conscription. They called up about 1000 men in the place where I live alone: they were all age-classes, from 19 to 26. They took everybody."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A German paratrooper is disappointed.

DECEPTION

"I tried hard to get away before I was finally taken prisoner. We had a number of Red Cross flags in the platoon and when things were looking bad we put Red Cross armbands on and kept waving the flags, but they wouldn't fall for it and so we were captured. I was very disappointed. Lots of others have worked this trick."

SOURCE: Artillery Sergeant captured at ESPERIA, Italy, 17 May 1944.

DECEPTION

"They (the Germans) are using ambulances (Red Cross?) to carry ammunition. It's true. I saw it myself."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A paratrooper sergeant envies the true Nordic male.

EUGENICS

"There's an institution in MUNICH where girls can go and become mothers. The child is then adopted and cared for by the government. The men they have there are all selected specimens of the Nordic race and are supposed to produce a new race. After all our war losses have got to be made up somehow. I envy the men there: good food, a quiet life, and women to your heart's content."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Seaman in the German Navy who had also been in the German Air Force.

FIELD PUNISHMENT

" I knew a sentry who got a year for stooping to pick up a pencil. . . Once an SS man asked me into the courtyard to see the show. The men were coming back from work, their shovels over their shoulders. They marched them around the yard and a guard took one man's shovel, threw it over the wall, and told him to get it. The man refused. The guard beat him. The man still refused. The guard beat him unconscious. Then he took a shovel from a new man, threw that over too, and told the man to go after it. The man obeyed. As soon as he got to the top of the wall, they got him with machine guns."

SOURCE: A Major reports on a fellow officer who joked about the wrong person.

PUNISHMENT

Prisoner: "I know of a Colonel who was sentenced because he cracked a joke about the Fuehrer when he was tight."

Interrogator: "What was the joke?"

Prisoner: "You've probably heard it: 'How many people were killed in the last war?' The Colonel replied, 'One too few'."

Interrogator: "That does not sound too bad."

Prisoner: "It was too bad for him. He was reported and condemned to death and the sentence was actually carried out."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner of war captured at MONTE GRANDE,  
Italy, on 21 October 1944.

FRANKFURT RAIDS

"There was no gas for three months after the attack on FRANKFURT. I've never seen a town so damaged, and I haven't ever been in the big attacks on the city. There is not a house left standing all the way from the East Station right into the eastern suburbs. They have not even had time to dig out the dead."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Air Force Sergeant, an anti-Nazi who served as clerk at Headquarters of Luftflotte 3 and later at Headquarters of the German Air Force.

GERMAN AIR FORCE

When Colonel General Jeschonnek, G.A.G. Chief of Staff, died in August 1943, it was officially given out in Germany that he had died from natural causes at Goering's Headquarters. It was understood by officers in the G.A.F., however, that he had shot himself. The prisoner was told that one night Hitler had had a long and angry conversation with Jeschonnek, in which he reproached the latter for the general inefficiency and lack of enterprise of the G.A.F.; he ended the conversation with: "You know what you can do now", with the result that Jeschonnek shot himself in the early hours of the following morning.

Concerning the attempt on Hitler's life, the prisoner stated that it occurred very much as reported in the press. The wooden walls collapsed and Hitler was hit on the right forearm by a splinter of wood. The bomb is said to have stripped General Korten, Chief of the General Staff of the German Air Force, of practically all his clothes. He died a short time later. General Kreipe was appointed as the new Chief of Staff.

At a luncheon at a field near Paris the Operations Officer of the G.A.F. General Staff, General Koller, criticized the anti-aircraft artillery staff for their attempts to use searchlights during the daylight raids in the hope of blinding the pilots. General Koller told the Staff that such efforts were "rubbish".

At one of the fields visited by the prisoner many damaged aircraft were in the hangars but no work was being done on account of the continual air raid alarms.

\* \* \* \* \*

Goering's Headquarters at BERCHTESGADEN consists of a train in the station and also an uncamouflaged barracks in the valley some 800 to 1000 meters (between one-half and two-thirds of a mile) south of the station. The Reichsmarschall's house is situated above Hitler's Berghof. During air raids in the area a smoke screen is laid around BERCHTESGADEN, FREILASSING and SALZBURG. The airfield used by Hitler is SALZBURG where three F200's stand by for his use. The staff officers of the Oberkommando der Luftwaffe (High Command of Luftwaffe) use Ainning airfield for air communications. Two sleeping cars for couriers are attached each night to the Salzburg-Berlin night express.

\* \* \* \* \*

The German Air Force war diary is kept by Lieutenant Colonel Von Berchem, 40 years old. He is not a Nazi. According to the prisoner, he is too good for this particular post.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Air Force Sergeant, an anti-Nazi who served as clerk at Headquarters of Luftflotte 3 and later at Headquarters of the German Air Force. (cont'd)

GERMAN AIR FORCE

From the beginning of 1944, G.A.F. Headquarters frequently sent out orders for the improvement of dispersal on German airfields, and according to prisoner of war, orders have also been sent out that Allied aircraft are to be shot at from the ground even with rifles.

Goering had the idea that, since so many airfields in the Reich were being attacked and damaged, extra landing grounds would have to be constructed; he therefore gave the order to utilize the large autobahn as an airport. Main crossroads were to be used for this purpose. Prisoner of war stated that in the Holfoldingen Forest an autobahn was being used for this purpose on the Salzburg-Munich road. Aircraft are dispersed under the trees at the sides of the road.

On 12 August 1944 there was a total of 30 Me 262's at Lechfeld airfield and 10 of these were ready for immediate operations.

In February 1944 prisoner stated that a special aircraft, fitted with secret equipment and signals material, made a forced landing in Switzerland. This caused consternation in the G.A.F. General Staff, as it was presumed that the material would fall into RAF or EAF hands. The Chief Intelligence Officer of the General Staff, Wodarg, discussed with the German Security Police the possibility of arranging the destruction of this aircraft.

\* \* \* \*

The prisoner stated that the majority of the G.A.F. were supporters of the Nazis but that only POWs were members of the party.

Members of the G.A.F. staff were wildly enthusiastic after the American attack on SCHWEINFURT at the prospect of collecting badly needed salvage for the German aircraft industry.

The most important operational plans of the G.A.F. were always decided personally by Hitler and Goering, according to the prisoner.

Members of the G.A.F. staff are secretly very doubtful about General Kreipe's appointment as Chief of the General Staff. He is 40 years old and is a Nazi. He has always had the reputation of being lazy and inefficient. However, Kreipe enjoys Goering's protection and received his promotion as a result of this.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Twenty-one year old forest worker from WERNHAUSEN,  
an extreme anti-Nazi, captured in November 1944.

GERMAN HUMOR

Contrary to the decree that soldiers refrain from making jokes about Nazi government officials, prisoner of war cited the following one, enjoyed by members of the armed forces:

"A Party member meets a farmer and greets him with 'Heil Hitler'. The farmer says, 'Gruss Gott' (customary greeting in Austria and Bavaria before the event of the Nazi regime.) The Party member quite astonished, asks the farmer: 'Tell me, can't you say 'Heil Hitler'?' The farmer answers: 'On this road stands a cross on which hangs the Son of God. As long as he hangs there I shall say 'Gruss Gott'. But as soon as Adolf hangs, there, I shall say 'Heil Hitler'!"

SOURCE: Austrian Prisoner of War from the Fifth Army Front.

GERMAN HUMOR.

Goebbels called Cologne long distance and the following conversation ensued:

GOEBBELS: "Ist das Köln West?" "Is this Cologne West?"

ANSWER: "Nein, hier is Köln Rest!" "No this is Cologne rest!"

GOEBBELS: "Komisch, ich muss schlecht gewählt haben." "Funny, I must have made a bad choice."

ANSWER: "Ja, wir auch in 1933." "Yes, so did we in 1933."

SOURCE: Polish prisoner of war who deserted near BARGA,  
7 January 1945.

GERMAN HUMOR.

The following political joke was current in his unit:

"Hitler, Goering, Goebbels and Himmler were driving along a narrow road when, rounding a curve, they found their way blocked by a donkey. The chauffeur honked and honked but the creature refused to budge. Goering was all for shooting it on the spot. No, the Fuehrer replied, it was a Party member of long standing; better have the driver get out and plead. The chauffeur obediently spent quarter of an hour gesticulating and begging and came back without success. Next Goering, as head of the Luftwaffe and assistant Fuehrer dismounted to command the donkey to move. In a short time he returned and reported that he had appealed to the beast's loyalty as a member of the German nation, but all in vain. The donkey still refused to move.

"Goebbels now climbed out and delivered an elequent oration, but he too had to admit his defeat in spite of an appeal to Party Loyalty.

"Lastly, Himmler got out and strolled leisurely over. He whispered something in the donkey's ear and the creature scampered off instantly in a cloud of dust. 'What did you say?' the others demanded when Himmler returned. The head of the Gestapo smiled knowingly. 'What did I say? I simply told him that we were out looking for volunteers for the Wehrmacht.'"



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Air Force Sergeant, an anti-Nazi  
who served as clerk at Headquarters of  
Luftlotte 3 and later at Headquarters  
of the German Air Force.

GERMAN INTELLIGENCE CORPS

The reports of German agents dealing with troop movements in southern England, and other details such as cancellations of leaves, periodically reached G.A.F. Headquarters. On two occasions the prisoner remembered reports on the possibilities of Allied invasion which he maintains reached Germany via the Spanish Embassy. So many reports dealing with invasion began to reach Headquarters in the spring of 1944, however, that nobody knew what to believe so that when D-day finally arrived the General Staff was more or less taken by surprise.

Plans were made at the G.A.F. Headquarters for the formation of a number of small intelligence and sabotage units, consisting of four to eight men. These parties would land in Allied territory to destroy aircraft and carry out various intelligence and sabotage missions. One plan dealt with Gibraltar. The prisoner also remembers hearing about a plan for sabotage in the Panama Canal with the use of explosives.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A three-man U-boat operator, rescued from the Mediterranean 4 October 1944.

GERMANY'S NEW NAVY (?)

"We've got 6,000 men for our boats in the collecting center. I saw them myself. All very well trained too - most of them volunteers. They will use them all at once on one operation. That will have a terrific effect. You think it is just another plaything, but these playthings will win the war. If we hadn't any secret weapons, Hitler would have made peace long ago....We have 2,000 three-man U-boats ready for use and seven training courses for crews have already been completed."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Sergeant captured near ROSIGNANO, Italy,  
8 July 1944.

GERMAN REASONING (?)

"Don't you think that the English are to blame when they knew what war would be like and did nothing about it? Why didn't they say right back in 1935, 'Germany, Halt!!' They're to blame."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Fifth Army Report of 20 February 1945 (source not specified).

GOERING

Reichsmarschall Goering and Inspektor der Jagdwaffe, (Inspector of the Fighter Command) General Galland, have temporarily discarded all their medals. Goering now only exhibits the Iron Cross 1st Class he earned in World War I, and his pilot's insignia (Flugzeugfuhrer Abzeichen). According to a version popular in circles of the 1st Paratroop Division, Goering had decided not to wear his numerous medals "until the day when the GAF has reached again the number of planes it had in 1939."

SOURCE: German General captured near ARRAS, France, 1 September 1944.

GOERING

"Goering is mad. He sits around at home in silk pantaloons, red morocco shoes with pointed toes, and a diamond-studded belt with a diamond buckle. He sits there patting his stomach and watches the diamonds sparkle. I've heard that report from people who were present. When his generals come to report on something or other, he fetches them in a special train and shows them his collection of stones. He's mad - ill!"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: GENERAL, captured Sep. 1944. Western Front

HAMBURG RAIDS

During the air raids on HAMBURG from 26th July to 3rd August 1943, 40,000 people were killed and 100,000 tons of ocean-going shipping sunk, apart from a large quantity of inland shipping. The chief cause of the damage was the tremendous fires, which burned for weeks. 20,000 soldiers were brought in to help in the clearance work and it was possible to get the railway cleared and working after three days. 50% of the port facilities were also in working order after the same period - this being much better than expected. There was no epidemic of any description, due to the disinfecting powers of the fires.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner of War, former bank clerk, after two years of service.

HITLER

Interrogator: "What will happen to Adolph?"

Prisoner: "I imagine that that has all been decided already. But I feel that he'll still manage to do something sensational before his death."

Interrogator: "Do you think he'll fly to a neutral country?"

Prisoner: "He won't be given the opportunity. Where could he go to? I rather expect that he will shoot himself. But first of all he'll issue orders that all the German people are to listen to his last speech. I expect he'll say something like 'May the Lord God grant me pardon!' And twenty-four hours later it will be published in all the papers that he is dead. Or possibly he'll go to the front, take a machine gun, and die that way. NOBODY WOULD HAVE HIM!"

SOURCE: Infantry Corporal captured near VANITSA, Greece, 4 November 1944.

HITLER

"The man's a medical problem. He's sexually abnormal. You should have seen the crocodile tears he could produce at will. Or think of the little Hitler who used to bow from the waist to Hindenburg. And the people around him combine to drive him more deeply into megalomania. Hitler, the man, is really a contradiction in terms.

SOURCE: Corporal of 12/741 Rifle Regiment captured on 8th Army Front, 17 November 1944.

HITLER

"He (Hitler) is like a God. In one man lies the will and greatness of Germany. I would kill my own child should he ask it, for his will is the eternal will of the German people."

Source: A Pfc of a signals regiment, deserted near LARISSA, Greece, 23 October 1944.

HITLER

"The best title for Hitler would be 'Principal Idiot of the German People'."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry Major captured at ROCCA DI PAPPA, Italy,  
4 June 1944.

HITLER

"In MUNICH the Students' Movement distributed pamphlets with this rhyme on them:

"We want our Lord of grace and pardon,  
And not Adolph of BERCHTESGADEN."

SOURCE: Brigadier General captured at STRASBOURG, France.  
23 November 1944.

HITLER

"The story of Hitler's larynx is as follows: One day he went to a professor, a laryngologist, and said 'Examine my throat and tell me the truth. I have much ahead of me so tell me truthfully if it is something dangerous, for if it is, I must take appropriate action.' The laryngologist examined the Fuehrer, found that he simply had a polypus on the vocal chord and, with the Fuehrer's permission, removed it with a simple operation. Naturally, severe hoarseness remained. The Fuehrer, of course, gave the professor a huge sum; but the laryngologist returned the money claiming that it was an honor and a distinction to serve the leader of the German people. Thereupon the Fuehrer gave him the equivalent of an order, saying, 'You don't know what you have done for me. You have children and a family to care for. It is my wish that you keep this money.' And people wanted to tell me that in VIENNA the Fuehrer was attended by a Jewish doctor! I could only reply: 'Gentlemen, you are duped by an atrocious fairy tale.'"

SOURCE: Austrian Lieutenant in the Luftwaffe shot  
down near FORLI, Italy, 28 November 1944.

HITLER

"What a sinister figure Hitler is! We should have found out more about him earlier."

SOURCE: German General in the armored forces captured at  
AMIENS, 31 August 1944.

HITLER

"Let me tell you something, the Fuehrer is an optimist, or one might almost call him a visionary. He himself believes in things as ready, which are far from being ready. That is what is so ominous, because a thing like that always works against one in the long run. You can't make promises to soldiers and tell them that there is a prospect of something which never happens. That undermines their confidence!"

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German General captured at BOULOGNE, France,  
23 September 1944.

HITLER

" A year ago General S--- made the remark: 'I don't know why the Fuehrer has this aversion for the generals. I can't talk him out of it.' It's perfectly clear to me because, of course, he says: 'I'm self-taught; these people never really fully recognize me. They are people who can give military opinion who are justified in doing so, and they will never recognize me.' That's why he hated them. An inferiority complex!"

SOURCE: A Warrant Officer captured on the Fifth Army Front.  
10 December 1944.

HITLER

" I tell you the Fuehrer is most certainly a God-fearing man and doesn't go in for atrocities. Anything to the contrary is simply propaganda."



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Navy officer captured at TOULON in September 1944, describes his return from leave in HAMBURG.

INSIDE GERMANY

"Saturday till early Sunday morning, there was a major air raid. We stayed in the cellar all night with about 350 people... What a night - women and children yelling and crying and praying to heaven! I got to bed about eight in the morning and at nine - a ring at the door, a telegram sent off by the harbor police at BORDEAUX, recalling me immediately. I cursed like mad but there was nothing to do but start packing. In the middle there was another air raid. I grabbed my suitcase, said goodbye to my family and ran for another four hours back to ZELLE. My train- BORDEAUX via BREMEN and METZ- was due to leave at 1836 from there with a detour through ESSEN."

"When I came through the harbor area, everything was still burning. Some fires were two days old. They could only use the water from the ELBE because all the hydrants were smashed up. When I at last got to the station God, what a sight! All the wretched people who had been bombed out during the night's raid, about four thousand of them, were standing there in pajamas in broad daylight at five o'clock in the afternoon, shivering and howling. There was a group of English or American airmen standing nearby and the people wanted to lynch them. A strong SS guard was looking after them and offering them cigarettes and that only made the people wilder."

"Then along came the express from MUNICH, four hours behind time, at the platform my train was supposed to leave from, at 1836. 'Hell' I said to myself. They were all bombed refugees from MUNICH who for some odd reason were being sent to the camp at AHRENSBURG. They seemed to be decently dressed, not like our poor Hamburgers who were standing around like beggars."

"Anyway, the 1836 did not leave from that station but from HARBURG, so off I trudged again at six in the evening. Then came another air raid alarm - you could actually see the planes - and down I went into the cellar. I found out that the train was due to leave from HARBURG at 1912 in spite of the raid, but that it would have to start from a point in the open country since the station itself had received two direct hits the night before. 'I'd better be off,' I said, and ran to HARBURG like a madman. I didn't make it in time but the train was still there. The station was right out in the open country about two kilometers west of HARBURG. There wasn't a single house left standing there. Everything was smashed up."

"Well, I got in and the train started off at once. The bombs had been falling on HARBURG for some time now; it was dark and you could see HAMBURG Harbor burning, too, from end to end. It was a fearful sight. Our train travelled without any lights at all, at about 20 kilometers an hour. I was in the end compartment: I thought that was the safest. We went on all right as far as ESSEN, which we reached about midnight, and there was another air raid alarm!"

(continued next page)

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Navy officer captured at TOULON in September 1944, describes his return from leave in HAMBURG.  
(Continued)

INSIDE GERMANY.

" From there we went on to METZ and as I was held up for five hours I telephoned to the harbor police at BORDEAUX to let them know that I was on the way. Terrific to-do at the other end-I must hurry up, they said. I got to BORDEAUX on Wednesday. And do you know what it was all about? They had called a meeting for all commanders because - you'll hardly believe this - a paragraph had to be read out in which the Military Commander urged on all troops and sailors the necessity of economizing in the use of butter and wanted to stop them from eating too much! You can imagine my feelings! I cursed like a lunatic. And my ship had to be dock for another fortnight for repairs."

"To cap everything, a wire arrived early Thursday morning to say that my house had been bombed, that my wife and children were safe but that everything we possessed had been lost. I tell you, it's all right if we go on fighting to the last man and the last inhabitant because the German nation has nothing more to lose; it has lost everything already."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE, Sergeant, German Air Force War Correspondent,  
captured at LE CACCIOLE/SIENA, Italy, 3 July 1944.

JET AIRCRAFT.

" Someone told me that, although these new jet-propelled aircraft are very good, there is one great disadvantage to them: there has to be a constant change of personnel. Apparently no one can fly one of those things for more than month as the blood pressure at those high speeds is so great."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Prisoner of war captured near LARISSA, Italy,  
on 23 October 1944.

LEIPZIG RAIDS

It was the southern part of LEIPZIG that got it. A direct hit killed 600 in a single shelter. Seven theaters, banks, and almost everything else were razed to the ground... by the heavy bombs. The station is just a heap of ashes.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Sergeant-Major, captured at ALFONSINE,  
6 January 1945

MANPOWER

"This fighting here in Italy is worse than anything we knew in Russia. There the Russians let loose hell two or three times a month but here it literally never stops. The Allies can afford it; money is no consideration - as much equipment as they want and seemingly endless manpower! When I think how our men were just wasted criminally day after day! And to think that our commanders won't see reason. After all, one can't be expected to do the impossible. And what the hell can an infantry man do when he's got three tanks facing him? It's impossible."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE Second Lieutenant from the 305th Engineer Battalion captured on the PONTECORVO-AQUINO Front, 23/25 May 1944.

MINES

"I laid mines along the Adriatic Coast for three months and almost every night your patrols were blown up on them. Later we laid mines in all the houses, mainly in the lavatory or behind orange trees. Our fellows do that sort of thing very well. The time bomb that went off in NAPLES was laid by a friend of mine. The Russians did exactly the same thing in KIEV. There a whole headquarters went up in the air."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Letter to a German soldier who was later captured,  
dated REISKIRCHEN, 8th October 1944.

MUNICH RAIDS.

"Yesterday they bombarded the railroad line to BUSECK. This is an important target for them because of the traffic going through... Today they were again over GIESSEN. The Waldkaserne was hit. At mid-day the Americans came over GIESSEN and the airfield ... They never seem to miss..."

SOURCE: Prisoner of war who come through MUNICH on 27th  
October 1944 on his way to the Italian Front.

MUNICH RAIDS

About five miles from Munich everyone had to leave the train and board a light train to reach the Haupt Bahnhof. The reason for this was that the newly repaired tracks could not take the weight of a heavy train. The station itself was very badly damaged. The East Station, from which we left, was a total wreck; tickets were being sold at caravans outside the station.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An anti-tank private, captured at the Beachhead.  
NATIONAL ANTHEM.

" Yes, 'Deutschland ueber alles!' - don't you think  
our National Anthem is a disgrace compared with those  
of other countries? We seem to think that every other  
country is just so much dirt - Deutschland ueber alles! "



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A former Luftwaffe Technician stratifies Nazi Party membership.

NATIONAL SOCIALISM

"When one considers the attitude of the various age-groups towards National Socialism it's roughly like this: one actually finds the fewest Nazis among the eighteen to twenty-year olds because they are the ones who were forced to do all that drilling and marching. Among the twenty to twenty-eight year olds on the other hand, one finds most of the Nazis, because they were in it all from the beginning when it was more or less voluntary, and one doesn't like to let go of an idea one has accepted voluntarily. You'll find practically no Nazis at all in the age-groups from twenty-eight to thirty-eight, whereas among the thirty-eight to fifty year olds one finds some really fanatical Nazis."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An SS trooper sings the Nazi refrain.

NAZI DOCTRINE

"We were supposed to be monsters - we were far too good to the people we conquered - that's what we were!".

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Air Force Corporal rescued off ORAN,  
12 July 1944

NAZI DOGMA

"I Keep on telling myself one thing: I am a German and I have sworn an oath. And this oath I will keep even if I have to pay for it with my life. Even if National Socialism is wrong, I believe in it. We are only little people, perhaps we are even young and stupid, but we cannot act differently. We are born in Germany and we have to die for Germany. Our fate is to die for National Socialism. It is a sad fate, but it is our fate all the same. It is better to perish with the wrong idea than to be under a foreign yoke....."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry Private captured by Partisans on the Island of HVAR, Yugoslavia, 23 March 1944.

PARTISANS

"Before the Chetniks joined us we once fought for 96 hours on end. Later, when the Fuehrer came to an agreement with their leader, things were better. They welcomed us with wine.

"The Partisans poisoned the wells and the wine vats. Even the oranges were poisoned..... You should have seen the SS at work. We found four SS men hanged and then the SS took counter-measures to avenge them. Hundreds of men were mowed down. Four at a time. Cover them with dirt, then the next four. You've heard what it's like.....

"Patrols were sent out to bring back peasants. In one place every single patrol was captured..... At BRAC, a battalion commander was shot. Two men went up to the sentry and said they had an important dispatch for the commander. The sentry let them through: they went up to the first floor and opened the door. The battalion commander rose to greet them, and bang! - that was the end of him. Then the sentry ran around in circles while the Partisans vaulted over the staircase, jumped out the window, sprang into one of our own trucks, and drove away. We never found them. And the battalion commander was dead. That was followed by the mass shooting of the population of SOLTA."

SOURCE: Infantry Corporal captured by Partisans near SALTO in Yugoslavia, 19 March 1944.

PARTISANS

"We shall never subdue the Partisans. Every bit of territory has to be weeded of them in hand-to-hand fighting. You engage with two or three brigades, the Partisans withdraw to another place, and before you know what's what, the whole damn business starts all over again..... Only a systematic campaign will clean them out, and for that we would need whole armies..... In that wild terrain there are no proper roads and sometimes you go for weeks without supplies. Probably half our supplies, ammunition and so on are lost on their way to us. It's ghastly! An isolated company cannot march alone. You have to have at least a battalion..... Sometimes they (the Partisans) would approach a strong point, come to within 20 or 30 meters of it, and then call out that we ought to come over and join them; that they had plenty of food and any number of pretty girls. Then there'd be a splutter of fire from all sides. Even when there were only 30 or 40 of them against 300 or 400 of us, they'd often creep up to within 2 or 3 meters of us. They have a complete disregard for death, a coolness bordering on madness.

(continued on next page)

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry Corporal captured by Partisans near  
SALTO in Yugoslavia, 19 March 1944 (continued)

PARTISANS.

"There Commissars include many German emigrants-  
doctors, engineers, students and Jews. And they are  
very good at demotition. That is why a trip home on  
furlough is more dangerous than being at the front. Trains  
are blown up or shot up almost every day.

"Senior officers are always escorted by 5 or 6 ar-  
mored cars. Certain roads are safe for German troops.  
Then there are strong points reinforced with barbed wire and  
mines. Sometimes these are cut off for weeks on end.....  
All reinforcements arrive in convoy - 20, 50, or even 80  
vehicles, with one section on each vehicle - an escort of at  
least two companies with armored reconnaissance cars in front  
and tanks behind. Even so, they are always attacked. Every  
time you go on furlough you have a few fights on the way."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Private of an artillery unit captured near FLORENCE in October 1944.

POISON GAS

"And I'll tell you a nice thing. I saw some special shells at AREZZO and FLORENCE. On them was written 'For special employment. Danger! Compressed Ait.' The containers were marked with green and yellow stripes. We always thought that they did in fact contain some sort of compressed air, but one day we opened up one of the containers and discovered that the shells really were filled with poison gas."

SOURCE: Sergeant/Technician who formerly gave instructions on gases, captured in the forest of PARROY, France, 1 October 1944.

POISON GAS

"There is a new (gas).... well, I won't talk about it, but I've seen its effects on animals and it will have the same effect on human beings. German industries are working full blast on it..... I believe that whichever side can project the greatest amount of poison gas in the shortest time will win the war. Tanks will be quite unnecessary.... The (contents) of our gas bombs - about as large as two barrels put together - are liquid and must be filled by prisoners..... Our chemical warfare troops are trained in little barns in villages and the bombs are manufactured in the same places.... There is no gas mask which will give protection against our new gas grenade. Besides, you Americans don't wear masks. I noticed that..... If the High Command gives the signal, it will be all over. Ten thousand of our gas grenades could kill every American on the Western Front."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A former Nazi Gauleiter, captured in Italy,  
November 1944.

POST-WAR GERMANY.

"After the war it'll be best to emigrate to some place that hasn't been touched by the war - like DENMARK, for instance. But all the same, the Germans will be hated by the whole world, at any rate for the first few years afterwards. And none of us will have any money. If the Communists come to power in GERMANY after the war, I'm not going to do any political work - I shall just retire from the political field altogether."

SOURCE : Second Lieutenant of a German Air Force Rifle  
Battalion captured near MACERONE, Italy,  
16 October 1944.

POST-WAR GERMANY.

"I hope they allow sports clubs after the war. But hiking clubs and 'pathfinders' clubs ought to be banned in all circumstances, because they are nothing better than secret rifle clubs. And the police ought to be allowed to carry rubber truncheons only, because if you give them pistols everyone will be enlisted in the police and that will be the beginning of another German Army. It's quite certain that in two or three years we'll once again have a number of secretly trained divisions."

SOURCE: A Regular Army Colonel captured near CISTERNA,  
Italy, 25 May 1944.

POST-WAR GERMANY

"If things go wrong, the officers who return to Germany will be in a worse position than we prisoners. The people at home will blame them for all the years they've suffered and had to do without things. They are already getting worked up to it and turning communistic. I noticed the disgusted looks my neighbors gave me when I was last on leave - they don't like German uniforms any more, and as for officers, they're definitely looked down on. The people are all dissatisfied but at present they are afraid to say anything and are just waiting for the moment when they can express their feelings openly. They were always provocative towards me. I feel sorry for my wife who has to put up with it all the time."

SOURCE: Lieutenant, 19th German Air Force Artillery  
Regiment, taken prisoner north of FLORENCE,  
August 1944.

POST-WAR GERMANY.

"When the armaments industry comes to a stop - and it will stop - then we shall again have five million unemployed on the streets. Germany has two alternatives: War and work for all, or peace and unemployment."

TOP SECRET.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: What the Generals say

POST-WAR GERMANY

(Summary of conversation between three German Generals and an Allied Intelligence Officer, 1 - 4 November 1944.)

The Russians will occupy Eastern Germany with ten communist-indoctrinated, communist-trained German prisoner of war divisions under General von Seydlitz, head of the Moscow sponsored Free German Movement. These German divisions will have to do the dirty work of the occupation with the result that popular resentment will be directed against them rather than against Russia itself. When this period of usefulness is over, von Seydlitz and his officers will be shot and will be replaced by Russians.

Though von Seydlitz believes that, by serving the Russians, he will make communism less drastic for Germany, he will, by facilitating its initial penetration, only make it worse for Germany, for his own class, and for himself in the long run,

Von Seydlitz was making the same mistake with regard to the Russians that the Generals themselves had made with regard to the Nazis. That is, they joined the Party in order to influence it and use it for the Army's ends only to find themselves used and then ignored or put out of the way when they were no longer useful to the Nazis.

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Rifleman captured south of FLORENCE, 2 August  
1944, repeats a remark common to enlisted pri-  
soners of war.

P. W. RATIONS

"Throughout the whole of my service I have  
never been so well fed as in this prisoner of war camp."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Polish deserter from the German Army who  
surrendered to the Maquis in September 1944.

RED CROSS

"In a small village near CHALON (France) our unit and some others took over an International Red Cross train laden with packages for British and American prisoners in Germany. With the permission of our officers the men looted the train, loaded the trucks with all the packages they could carry and then set the train on fire. In our unit there was a big package for every two men. The packages contained powdered milk, chocolate, coffee, tea, cigarettes, cookies, prunes, preserved meats and other edibles of English and American origin."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: GENERAL, captured WESTERN FRONT, Sept. 1944.

ROMMEL

ROMMEL was driving to the Western Front when the fighter bombers arrived, approaching from the rear. He had the car door partly open so he could get out quickly. The driver was hit in the forearm and probably lost control; ROMMEL banged his head on the car and the base of his skull was fractured. He lay in a local doctor's house for 10 days till a specially adapted armoured car removed him to his own quarters.

SOURCE: German officer during interrogation by British and American officers.

ROMMEL

"I know ROMMEL very well. I had half an hour's conversation with ROMMEL in hospital. I shall never forget ROMMEL'S last words to me. When I left, he shook hands with me and said, 'Hesse, I think it's a good thing that I was hit on the head.' ROMMEL sustained a so-called two-sided fracture of the base of the skull, with a 9 cm. gaping wound in the skull which was just beginning to heal. He was able to get up again after six weeks. Then the muscle of one of his eyes had been shot through so that the lid hung down."

SOURCE: GENERAL, captured September 1944, WESTERN FRONT.

ROMMEL

ROMMEL told the German High Command that it was necessary to withdraw because the troops could not stand up to the Allied air and sea bombardment; the reply had been that it was rubbish to say German troops could not stand up to that - the troops would counter attack and hurl the Allies back into the sea.

SOURCE: A Corporal captured by Maquis in France, September 1944.

ROMMEL.

"ROMMEL was a captain in the last war and a major in the reserve. If one went to his estate near BRISLAU and said 'Heil Hitler', one got a kick in the behind. His son told me that all his dogs were trained to bite immediately they heard the word 'Hitler'."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Hungarian leaders of the resistance movement who fled Hungary 9 December 1944, seeking to establish relations with Allied Military Leaders.

SECRET WEAPONS

In the early fall of 1944, 16 Allied bombers were downed in the vicinity of KENYERI. German propagandists in BUDAPEST explained that the Germans had finally used their much-talked-of "coal dust", a bomb that exploded above a formation, spreading dust that was sucked into the aircraft engines. The informant's assistants examined some of the engines and found no evidence of dust.

SOURCE: Infantry Sergeant, non-Party member, captured 30 October 1944.

SECRET WEAPONS

"I've found a new job."

"Really, how's that?"

"With the NEW secret weapon."

"What is it this time?"

"Well, they hollow out oak trees and fill them with explosives and push them towards England. When they wash ashore they explode and gradually wear away the whole island."

"And what is your job?"

"I plant the acorns."

SOURCE: Young German paratrooper interrogated near NAPLES, 28 September 1944.

SECRET WEAPONS

"They are only waiting in Germany for the German prisoners of war to be evacuated from NAPLES and then they'll bomb it and smash it to bits."

SOURCE: Officer in Rifle Regiment captured south of RAVENNA, Italy, 2 November 1944.

SECRET WEAPONS.

"If the worst comes to the worst, we can carry on partisan warfare in Germany. In my opinion it would be best to withdraw all our forces into Germany's 'Inner Fortress'. All our troops pinned down in the Balkans ought to force their way through to the north, while at the same time evacuate Hungary and occupy Slovakia. Then we can hold the Siegfried Line until we get the 'New Weapon'."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A German Infantry Private describes SS treatment of Jews in Poland.

SS

One SS man told me that in LODZ they hanged three Jews systematically every other day. The gallows were set up in the center of the town and the Jews hung there for two days; then they were taken down and three others put in their place. They kept them all in a ghetto and treated them worse than cattle. When we took NINIV I myself saw a White Russian who was fighting on the German side shooting Jews. There they were standing in lines while three other Jews were being made to load his magazines. All sorts they were; husbands and wives, mothers and their children. And although there were 35 degrees of frost, these people had to strip, throw their clothes on a separate heap and then face death. There were no graves, of course. Once when I was there it was so bad that even the SS couldn't face it. Then the officer in charge decided that it wasn't worth the ammunition and ordered the Jews to beat each other with spades. And they had to do this, too."

SOURCE: A Corporal of a Rifle Regiment captured at CASERNA, 19 October 1944.

SS

"In the end it will come to a showdown between the Army and the SS throughout Germany. But only right at the very end. The SS are nothing but political criminals shoved into uniform."

SOURCE: An SS man captured on 8th Army Front.

SS

"I had friends in Italy. I'd had more than enough of the Nazis. When you just see how well the officers live, how they gorge themselves - why, it's enough to make you mad with rage! I was always the sort of man who doesn't like to kill a fly. But my father told me that I ought to join the SS: 'It's just like belonging to a sporting club,' he said, and 'it's a good education in politics.' That's how I came to be in the SS. But what I saw there, in the concentration camps especially, was enough to make me sick. I was too kind to the prisoners and so they dismissed me from the job. Several of the prisoners weren't allowed to write home and I used to do so for them. And I simply couldn't kill people; I hadn't the heart to do it. I had always said that I couldn't torture anyone. Well, as part of the staff I got a pretty good peep behind the scenes. And on the strength of what I saw I can tell you that I've had enough of the Nazis. The way that human beings are racked and tortured in those camps, why it's worse than anything that the OGPU has ever done! The whole Nazi method of conducting politics is nothing short of bestial."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An SS corporal captured in Northern Italy,  
October 1944

SS

"In Russia the SS Divisions never took any prisoners or if they did happen to then we went for them like wild beasts. When er were counter-attacking we never took a single one. We tore the fingernails off Russians who refused to talk during interrogation. Really barbarous things. Still, it must be said that we always fought to the last man. There's only one SS Division on the Eastern Front now, the TOTENKOPF Division near WARSAW. They're not human beings at all. In the prison and concentration camps they were the nicest people you could hope to meet compared with the incredible beasts they were at the front. They're like children - every order has to be carried out. But of course the Russians aren't human either."

SOURCE: An SS sergeant captured near FORLI, Italy,  
November 1944.

SS

"Now that we are getting short of men we find ourselves at the front like all the others, and to-day we're soldiers like the rest. But of course we are more reliable, and that is our great strength. The German people would never have held out through all the disasters of the last two years if it hadn't been for the protection of the SS."

SOURCE: Twenty-one year old infantry Private, formerly  
a waiter in BRNO, Czechoslovakia, captured near  
FLORENCE, 3 August 1944

SS

"What outrages the SS has committed! I myself saw in one town in CROATIA how they shot 2,000 women in the market place with machine guns. When they had finished there was just a heaving mass on the ground, and the officers walked through it shooting those who still lived with their pistols."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: An infantry Lieutenant captured near FLORENCE, August 1944, discusses Germany's treatment of her co-belligerents.

SECOND- CLASS PEOPLE

"Our great trouble is that we don't know how to treat other nations properly. We make too many mistakes although one daren't say that. When I think of what I saw in ALSACE and in the UKRAINE! They put any old Gauleiter in charge. We have ruined our reputation in the eyes of every country in the world. It started with the Czechs; look how they were treated by the SS, without any provocation at all. And in France, too. Then at the Bridgehead there was the Italian Barbarigo Division and an SS Division consisting of first-class soldiers, but you should have seen the way they were treated! They were in the line for ninety days and only got cold food, whereas our rations were always hot. They were treated the whole time as a second-class people."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Infantry officer captured on the PONTECORVO-AQUINO Front, 22 May 1944.

SECURITY

"During the attack on the GARI in January we caught right at the start it was - an American Major from a Reconnaissance battalion who had the whole plan of attack on him. It had everything on it: the exact times, artillery fire plan, and so on. That was why we were able to beat off the attack."

SOURCE: Lt. Colonel, head of a Prisoner of War Collecting Point near STRASBOURG where he was taken prisoner, 24 November 1944.

SECURITY

Intelligence Officer: "What prisoners did you take?"

Prisoner of War: "Mostly Americans. They were confident and talked freely and openly, according to what I was told..... I only evacuated them..... They were not robbed and all received a receipt at the main cage."



TOP SECRET.

SOURCE An infantry Private taken prisoner on Fifth Army Front, 2 November 1944, speaks of the bombing of Berlin.

STRATEGIC

"The worst things were the incendiary bombs, the asphalt burned together with trees, bushes, everything. Everything was in flames."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German Air Force Sergeant, an Anti-Nazi who served as clerk at Headquarters of Luftflotte 3 and later at Headquarters of the German Air Force.

V-1

As soon as the V-1 operations began against England the General Staff of the G.A.F. received two daily reports which gave the numbers launched. These reports were always laid before Hitler at his daily conference and prisoner of war stated that up to August 10 the number launched was approximately 7,000. (Comment by MAAF A-2: The Ministry of Home Security - Air Ministry tabulation of all plottings, by sighting and radar, from June 13th when the first flying bombs were reported, through August 10 gives a total of 5,560 launched. Therefore, it would appear that the figure of 7,000 launchings is entirely reasonable, the difference of 1,440 being accounted for by failures shortly after take-off, by others which crashed from a low altitude into the Channel.) Early in August Hitler personally issued an order that the supply of V-1's with a special HE filling was to be increased.

Reports from England on the effects of V-1 reached G.A.F. Headquarters six to eight days after the opening of V-1 operations. Prisoner stated that they came from agents. They were very detailed, comprising several pages of teleprinter messages, and arrived every four to five days. The author of one message had been on the spot when a Flying Bomb exploded, and apparently only just escaped.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Bright remark from a German Colonel of Fortress Engineers.

V-4

"The V-4 is said to be so powerful that it backfires on its own crew."

SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: A Sergeant sees a German victory in the stars.

VICTORY IN 1946

"You must remember that a quarter of their population lived in LONDON, and LONDON'S finished now, and as for the coastal towns - don't worry, their towns are more smashed up than ours. And if they're made to feel the weight of V-2, they'll soon pick up altogether. Unless they can win a decision by next spring they've lost the war. They know that themselves and that's why they are going all out now. But let them do their worst they can't bring it off in spite of their equipment. No, we'll be all right. The captain of our plane once told me about a Swedish seer who predicted in exactly such and such a month of 1938 Austria would become part of Germany. He foretold the fall of Belgium, Holland and France - everything exactly as it really happened afterwards. He said that in 1944 Germany would go through a serious crisis, but that England would be in great difficulty in November 1944; that we would beat them in 1945 and that the final victory over the Russians would be achieved in the middle of 1946."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Forty year old Colonel discusses Nazi Party behavior in Russia.

WAR CRIMES

"When we occupied a Russian village we would arrive there about three days after it had been evacuated and I would then have a raiding party put under me. Now, what do you think my job was? I had to requisition everything I could find in the houses. The things that were already smashed we would demolish completely and those that were of any value we would confiscate. Four men would deal with each house. Don't ask what went on there! Only the worst type of ruffian, of course, was used on this kind of work. Women were dragged away and if any offered any resistance they were hit with rifle butt. How the women used to yell and shriek! The stuff was put on lorries and driven off and we would carry on until the whole village was stripped bare. Everything was then brought to one place and nobody except the Party was allowed to move anything away. I took no notice of that, though, and anything I wanted to keep for myself I just put aside. Later the big-wigs arrived, picked out what they needed and had it transported away. The amount of things they hoarded!"

"Then they brought out an order that if any of the people got too excited they should be shot on the spot. They wanted me to do this dirty work for them, too. I was called in to the Commander who told me all about it and said the order had to be posted up in the market place and that we were to use our weapons whenever necessary. I saw he found the whole thing somewhat unpleasant and he mumbled something to the effect that it was the duty of every soldier to carry out the orders of the Party even if they were sometimes distasteful. This measure enraged the people even more but it was an order which had to be carried out. It was all kept secret. Obviously no decent soldier wants to have anything to do with that sort of thing."

"The Party didn't get all the things either: the big bosses grabbed whatever they could for themselves. This kind of thing was what sowed all the hatred against the German soldiers. It wasn't much better in Austria or France either."

SOURCE: An artilleryman, Sergeant, requisitions a house

WAR CRIMES

"I was serving with the heavy artillery and one day we were told to requisition a house by order of a Lieutenant Schuhmann, in the signals platoon. There was a family of three people and the son was made to kill his mother, the father had to kill the son and then the father was shot. That was in Russia in 1940."

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry Private captured at PONTECORVO, Italy,  
22 May 1944.

WAR CRIMES

"There was an order received to shoot all civilians wondering around in the front lines. The Lieutenant shot them. He'd see one and tell him to dig a hole or pick up some straw and as soon as the man's head was down he shot him with a pistol. One day he shot twenty-three. He used to boast about it."

SOURCE: German Air Force Corporal, 23 year old type  
setter from NEUISENBURG, near FRANKFURT, on the  
Main, captured off ORAN 12 July 1944.

WAR CRIMES

"I don't really know how we treat the Allied prisoners in Germany when we interrogate them. But I've seen the way Luftwaffe officers interrogate Russians. I've seen them break their collarbones when they wouldn't talk. They used to do that to civilians, too, most of whom in the end never really did know anything. And when you come to think of it, these people are human beings. Yes, I actually saw that sort of thing with my own eyes."

SOURCE: Infantry Corporal, twenty-year old mechanic  
from FREUDENTHAL, captured at CASTELLANO, Italy,  
10 July, 1944.

WAR CRIMES

"The only people I'd shoot are the Italians. When I was on the front, and there was no one looking, I shot at them whenever I could."

SOURCE: Major, a military administrator taken prisoner  
at SAARBURG, France, 21 November 1944.

WAR CRIMES

Prisoner of war states that he witnessed the execution of 20,000 people at WARNESBAND on the Russian-Latvian border. Men, women, children and infants were treated alike. Jews were herded together in compact groups, lined against a wall, and then machine-gunned. Women were forced to undress before they were shot. The dead, together with the wounded, were tossed into a ravine and earth was thrown over them.

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: German infantry officer captured near CASSINO,  
17 May 1944.

WAR CRIMES

"If we had to move back in a hurry and could  
not take prisoners with us, we just used to do them in."

TOP SECRET

SOURCE: Infantry private takes a dim view of German labor.

WORKERS

"If you saw the German workmen today - they rise at six in the morning, work three Sundays in the month and look like death warmed up."

TOP SECRET



SOURCE: A Rear-Admiral in charge of defenses on the  
French Riviera, captured at Toulon, France,  
28 August 1944.

THE END OF "HITLER"

"I can't help thinking that once the enemy is on German soil the whole German tradition - the marching up and down, the rolling of drums - will be a thing of the past. No more parades, no more shouting. It's difficult to imagine a Germany like that. We were so used to the old Germany."

